ACC Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2026 3:00 pm Large Meeting Room at Holy Family

Food Bank Program/Project Update – Food bank did not get the immediate grant they wanted but said that they have been promised grant money in the next fiscal year starting in July. The will be working on surveying the parking lot space to locate the best spot to place the building for utilities if it is moved to the spot in the future.

St. Peter Mural Update – Approval was received to move forward with painting the murals on the front walls of the St. Peter church. $30,000 check was given to the artist to start the work and as work progresses, additional checks to cover the full price of the $72,000 contract will be written as phases are completed.

Madelan Sugrue Bequest – We were informed that ACC was a beneficiary of Madelan Sugrue's will and will receive just over One Million dollars from her estate once things are settled. One stipulation was that the money couldn't be given to the Diocese. More to follow when we find out the actual details of the will. We may want to keep a large chunk of this money in reserve to help purchase a new living quarters for a priest in the future.

Pews and Kneelers for Holy Family – Fr. Received a very rough estimate of $200,000 to provide new pews with kneelers for the Holy Family worship space. He has send off a architectural diagram of the space to the vendor so they can start working up a better estimate and figure out the questions that will need to be answered going forward. This would be one of the things we could use the money from Madelan's estate to purchase.

Hiring a Music Director to get more consistent music for both churches:

- Music that people can learn and follow more easily
- Church sanctioned/approved music and instruments
- Gloria and responses from the Breaking Bread Book series of Masses
- Singing Gospel Acclamation
- Singing Eucharistic Acclamation
- Cantor training
- Fr. Joe shared an anonymous note that was put in the Offertory stating that they didn't want us singing most of the Mass responses. Fr. Joe stated that this is not how the Mass is supposed to be celebrated. If the Roman Missal containd musical responses, we should do our best to celebrate the Mass that way, especially on Sundays. He will work with whoever we get as a Music Director to help ensure that we have similar or the same music at both churches that follows accepted Church guidelines and train people properly on how to respond.

- The Council supported this as a good idea and moving forward with looking for someone part-time to take on these responsibilities. Fr. Joe will look into what Job Descriptions are available and pull something together to share with the council.

Lector Training:

- Preparing ahead of time
- Knowing pronunciations of words in Scripture and Announcements
- Lector Workbooks available or do we need to order some? – We will look into ordering workbooks for all the current lectors and having a training session.
- Fr. Joe will get some workbooks ordered and set up some training sessions for the lectors.

Altar Servers:

- Recruiting altar servers from RE classes (requirement of RE?) – Fr. Joe will talk with Patty Cook about what we could possible do in the area.
- Training Altar Servers to perform in a common way – Fr. Joe with work with Fr. Dillon to come up with training to help ensure consistency if how the altar servers support the priest at Mass.
- Training Lay servers to fill in if Altar Servers are not available – Fr. Joe will look to establish programs to ensure that we have altar servers, either RE students or adults to always be available to help serve at the altar on Sundays.
- Having a schedule and knowing who will be helping at the Altar on any given weekend Mass – Once established, servers will be responsible for making sure that they show up on their assigned days or have a trained substitute fill in for them.
- Responsibility for letting arranging substitutes if people can't make it. Fr. Joe will be looking for someone to take on the responsibility of training and coordinating altar servers going forward.
- Interest was expressed in having incense used more frequently during the services, especially on special feast days and solemnities. This will be part of the training when it is established.

Other Topics:

The old chapel are has been closed for regular services and we are looking into using the area as a possible classroom in the future. This would allows us to keep the Social area free for other activities for the parents of the RE students to participate in while their children are in classes. Fr. Joe will talk with Patty to see what she thinks.

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The Fan at St. Peter was reported as being too noisy during services. Fr. Joe hasn't noticed it so far but will keep an ear open to see what may be going on with the heating system that has been reported annoying many during Mass.

Fr. Dillon's microphone was reported as not being loud enough at Mass and people were having a hard time hearing and understanding him, especially during his homilies when they were missing out on some of his words.

It was pointed out that we didn't have any good high-chairs available for infants in the social area. Fr. Joe asked the council member to investigate some good options and bring them back to him.

We discussed doing a complete tour of our facilities at our next meeting to see what items may be available in storage and possibly useful for future programs or projects.

We discussed coming up with a Historic Archive for our churches with pictures and other items that could be put on display.

Questions were raised about Natural Family Planning. Could we find some materials to put on display? We have someone at the Diocese that could come over and do training and Fr. Joe could check to see if Dr. Patrick Krach in Deer Lodge, who is a strong advocate would be willing to do a presentation or talk.

Questions were raised about a "Theology of the Body" presentation or materials for our High School students to give them the Catholic side of the story vs. what they are being taught in school.

Socials and get togethers after Mass on Sundays. Coffee and donuts, special presentations.

BINGO! We have the resources to do it, so why not get something set up.

Catholic Jeopardy or Trivia socials.

Chili cookoff socials.

Get the baptistry at Holy Family plumbed and connected. Fr. Joe will check with Sawyer Plumbing to see if that is something they would be interested in working on for us.

Weight of Cross carrying competition for High School youth.

Music, dancing, sock-hops, line-dancing, in social area for high school youth or young adults.

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After hours Confessions, Adoration and Bible Studies for parents and young adults that are working during the daytime hours. This could possible be an alternative activity for Wednesday nights during RE for the younger children to give the parents and adults something to participate in while waiting for children to finish classes.

Organize ski trips, in season. Possibly have a supervised sleep over with social the night before, dinner, breakfast in the morning and then bus to Discovery in early morning. Or any combination of these activities.

Next Meeting: 3:00 PM 4th Tuesday of March, 03/24/26 – This is the day the Diocese will be having the Chrism Mass in Helena, so Fr. Joe won't be available. He has suggested that we set the next meeting for April 7th, after Easter. We are free to pursue any of the above activities in the meantime.