

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2026; 5:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Hall

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with a prayer from Monsignor Gilles.

Members Present: Oliver Ash, Tammy Becker, Dominic Carstens, Kevin Decker, Paul Jacobs, Mike Knapik, Monica Leis, John Leslie, Johanna Schuh, Franz Schuttenhelm, Matthew Sherrill, Monsignor Gilles, and Lynne Ostervich.

Members excused: Nick Harding, Deacon Chris Kabat, and Cheri Rifenberg. Monsignor Gilles announced that due to family obligations Nancy Rose is stepping down from the council. Monsignor thanked Nancy for all that she has contributed and welcomed Franz Schuttenhelm who has joined pastoral council.

The Minutes of the December 9, 2025 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Cathedral's Investment in the Downtown Community

Cathedral, Catholic Charities, and DMI are working in a collaborative effort to bring beauty and balance to downtown La Crosse making it a safe, clean, and accessible environment. There will be a news conference on March 19th.

Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP)

Questions on the scheduling for Sunday or Holy Day Masses should be directed to Jackie.

Spring Pictorial Directory

Dominic will be in charge of the pictorial directory. Photos of parishioners will be taken after Masses the weekend of April 11/12 and 18/19. Also photos will be taken Tuesday afternoon April 21 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Rebuild My Church Initiative

The most important thing is to be informed. Bishop Battersby is encouraging all priests to participate in a survey about how the curia is doing in serving the parishes. There will be an evangelization summit for clergy and laity in leadership on March 10, 2026.

Future of *The Worker* Triennial Newsletter

For the time being we will be using the 5th page of the bulletin for updates and to capture life events of parishioners.

Proposed Annual Server Thank You and Formation Event

Adult servers and younger servers will be invited to this new event with Monsignor Gilles. This is still in the planning phase and more information will follow.

New Business

Mass Times for Holy Days and Sunday

The afternoon Holy Day Mass time will be changed to 5:30 p.m.

Beacon of Light: Every Other Year?

The number of events at Cathedral has increased. Additionally, we have a Parish Picnic at John Leslie's home every year. We will plan to have the Beacon of Light Picnic during the odd years and the Steak Fry during the even years.

Reclaiming "Speaker Series" at Cathedral (Education Committee)

Cathedral will bring back the Speaker Series. This will include religious and cultural enrichment. The first event will be presented in March by Monsignor Gilles and John Leslie as they remember Anh Pham and share the highlights of their trip to Vietnam. Also, Chad Honeycutt will be speaking on his vision for La Crosse including Cathedral and DMI at the next Pastoral Council Meeting in April. There will be a Town Hall for all parishioners in the future.

Parish Outing: Brewers Game

This will be a summer event with bus transportation and tailgating to a Brewers game. The date has yet to be determined.

Parish Pilgrimages: Our Lady of Champion in 2027

The Pastoral Council agreed that this is a great idea! Our Lady of Champion is the only approved Marian apparition site in the United States.

Pilgrimage to Italy: September/October 2026

The itinerary will be published in a February 2026 bulletin. The deadline for payment is three months before the pilgrimage.

"Athletic" Evangelization (Dominic Carstens)

Dominic is encouraging Cathedral parishioners to be out in the world with their Catholic faith. We need to show that our doors are open and Cathedral is a place of communication and evangelization. Dominic also suggested organizing Cathedral softball and volleyball teams and at the same time encourage parishioners to come out and support our teams.

Report from the Finance Council

Bills are paid. A large estate was paid out to Cathedral. The parking lot repaving will cost \$942,000 and work will begin on July 1st. After the initial tearing out of the asphalt 1/3 of the parking lot should be available for parking. The plaza paver project is almost paid for. This should start early in April. We are half way to covering the expense of the kitchen project.

Surplus funds in our savings can go in an investment account for five years. These are funds beyond what is needed for six months of regular operating expenses.

Pastoral Council Committee Reports

Aquinas Catholic Schools (ACS) Education Commission Report

Aquinas Catholic Schools is purchasing the Blessed Sacrament School building. Both Blessed Sacrament and Cathedral schools are being renovated.

Social Concerns

The pancake breakfast made a profit of \$1,320.
Monday Meals for the Warming Center is going well.
We are working on a bus for the 2027 March for Life.

Family Life

The Chili Cook Off was a success and raised just under \$400 for the camping trip for Catholic Families. Next year this will be held in Saint Joseph Hall.

Sacred Worship

The ushers will be in the narthex area for 20 minutes and 5 minutes in the gathering area after Mass begins. This will enable them to immediately open the doors for late comers.

Catholic Education

Dominic will be lining up speakers for small youth groups. Youth ministry is reaching out to the Deanery and La Crosse area. Adoration night at the Crypt Chapel at the Diocese may be held.

Vocations

Monsignor Gilles reported that the vocation prayer kit is going well. Monsignor will be meeting with Mary Lehn to establish what the next step should be.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Nominations for The St. Joseph the Workman Award will be made at the next meeting in April. Candidates should practice above and beyond selfless giving.

Date of Next Meeting: April 14, 2026

Closing Prayer: 6:30 p.m.