

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 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, Nick Harding, Paul Jacobs, Deacon Chris Kabat, Cheri Rifenberg, Johanna Schuh, Franz Schuttenhelm, Matthew Sherrill, Monsignor Gilles, and Lynne Ostervich.

Members excused: Mike Knapik, Monica Leis, John Leslie.

The Minutes of the February 10, 2026 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Cathedral's Investment in the Downtown Community

Chad Honeycutt will be joining us tonight with a Downtown Main Street Presentation.

Beacon of Light: Every Other Year?

It has been decided to have the Beacon of Light Picnic and the Steak Fry every year. This year the picnic will be held at John Leslie's home in July. After this year the picnic will resume its standard location at Myrick Park.

Spring Pictorial Directory

The fliers are up and people are responding. There are a lot of slots still available. People can also submit pictures from home. This would be advantageous to homebound parishioners.

Rebuild My Church Initiative

Msgr. Gilles attended an evangelization summit in March. There are no changes in the current assignments for the La Crosse Deanery this year. Rev. Derek Sakowski will be joining Pastors in another meeting next month.

Athletic Evangelization (Dominic Carstens)

Cathedral did not have enough interest in playing softball to form a team this year. The new proposal is to invite all of the Deanery Parishes for an afternoon of softball and a picnic in July.

Speaker Series at Cathedral Parish (Catholic Education Committee)

Msgr. Gilles is currently looking for someone to help with the Speaker Series. The Vietnam presentation was very interesting and well presented. New ideas include a presentation on Catholics in voting.

St. Joseph the Workman Patronal Feast Day

Sunday, May 3 we will celebrate our Patronal Feast Day. The spiritual aspect involves placing petitions for Saint Joseph near the altar. A parish picnic will be held in and around the Rectory Annex following 10:00 a.m. Mass.

New Business

Chad Honeycutt, Executive Director of DMI, Presentation

Mr. Honeycutt gave a presentation of his vision for a partnership with Cathedral and DMI to promote support of our downtown businesses. Also the Sunday Farmers' Market will be held at Cameron Park from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. A Town Hall in regard to how Cathedral and DMI can collaborate will be held on Tuesday, June 9 in St. Joseph Hall.

Called and Gifted: Discerning One's Gifts

There are 23-26 gifts possibly received from the Holy Spirit at baptism. Everyone has some of these gifts. There could possibly be a workshop at Cathedral on discerning your gifts. We will circle back to this in the future after more information is available.

Update on the Static Tours Offered Fridays at 4:00 and 4:30 PM

There is a possibility that the days and times of tours could be changed.

Report from the Finance Council

We are current with Bills. The Inspired by the Spirit Campaign may need to write off some pledges that cannot be fulfilled. The contract was signed for the parking lot project. The contractor is Concrete Solutions and the project needs to be finished by October 1. Our taxes on the parking lot will be lower this year. The kitchen remodel is still in a planning stage. \$2,800 was brought in from the steak fry event.

Pastoral Council Committee Reports

Aquinas Catholic Schools (ACS) Education Commission Report

There was no meeting held. Blessed Sacrament School Construction project will begin on June 1st. Blessed Sacrament Parish will keep the parking lot.

Social Concerns

This has been the best year of participation for Meals on Mondays at the Warming Center. Kevin, through the Front Door Ministry now takes referrals, helps out people one on one, giving support, helping with job applications, etc. There is now a Twelve Step Program on Fridays for men who are manic or bipolar. There are no more hand outs.

Family Life

No Report

Sacred Worship

No Report

Catholic Education

Anyone interested in working on this committee should contact Dominic.

Vocations

The rosary will be prayed before Masses during the month of May. The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the costs of some additional items placed in the kit handed out to families to pray for vocations.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Our youth group at Cathedral is going to take the opportunity to collaborate and build community with other youth groups through out the deanery. The date is set for May 18. Our youth group has also met a few times with the young adult group. Our young adult group meets on Thursdays.

Date of Next Meeting: June 9, 2026 (Town Hall)

Closing Prayer: Msgr. Gilles 7:15 p.m.