

St. Wenceslaus Church, Wahoo, NE  
Parish Council Minutes – June 28, 2025

**Attendance** – Fr. Eickhoff, Fr. Allder, Chris Lautenschlager, Bob Sullivan, Tobin Spangler, Mike Weiss, Sally Gerdes and Michael Vech

Opening Prayer – Fr. Eickhoff

Minutes approved with two corrections noted.

Members gave brief introductions for Father Allder's benefit.

### **Pastor Update -**

Pat Burke was ordained as a permanent deacon on May 23rd. His list of duties is currently being refined but will include the prison ministry, assisting with weddings and funerals, and enhanced involvement with daily masses. Father is planning to hold a training meeting for readers, acolytes and ushers this summer which will help acolytes understand Deacon Pat's role.

The Anniversary Dinner for Fathers Eickhoff and Johnson was very nice and attended by about 120. Thanks to the PCCW for organizing this. The Parish Picnic was a success. Thanks to Stewardship Committee for organizing this.

Thirteen parishioners attended the trip to Guadalupe led by Scott Watts. Scott is looking for dates for an additional trip.

Rescue Project – Second round is planned for fall. The plan would be to hold meetings in homes beginning in the October time frame for the first several sessions and a retreat for all for the last couple of sessions. The start time would be planned so that the retreat would be held around the beginning of Advent. The goal is to begin to work on potential leaders with the hope that the leaders would reach out to different people than those that were in their initial group.

Church Restoration/Maintenance – Father Eickhoff will be setting up a meeting with Kevin Clark to review his file and the initial vision. A committee be reformed to start work on restoration with goal to have completion by the 150th Anniversary celebration in 2027. Father also mentioned issues with one of the air conditioners which is working but having trouble keeping up in severe heat situations. He is waiting for Benes' to come take a look.

### **Strategic Discernment**

Hospitality – Greeters This is awaiting finalization of Stewardship forms.

Parish Mission – Set for March 2026 where Father Zack will speak on Eucharistic Adoration. At this time there will also be a push to fill slots for the Eucharistic Adoration program.

Schools/Youth – Discussed ways to bring public school students into youth programs (mission trips, Stuebenville trip, etc).

### **Committee Reports**

Stewardship and Evangelization (Sally) – The responses for the Stewardship forms was very light with roughly 40 turned in at this point. Discussion was held about having them passed out another weekend giving enough time during mass for parishioners to complete. Also discussed publicizing some of the work that the Mission Connect team has done.

Men's Ministry - Men (Bob) 3rd Annual Men's Day of Rest will be held on August 16th in Prague with talks by Fathers Kane and Angelo and a Eucharistic procession through town. Building and Grounds Maintenance and Safety (Chris/Father) – Choir loft was recarpeted and flooring squeaks fixed with the assistance of Pat Vasa, John Benal and Carpetland. Priorities before the Restoration project begins are: (1) replacement of the sacristy and parish office doors, (2) installing some lighting on the east side of church towards the north end of the playground, (3) painting of the handicapped ramp railing, (4) additional trees and landscaping for the south side of the convent, and (5) windows for the convent. Les Mach is working on donors for the convent items.

St Wenceslaus School Report (Mike) – Mike reported that enrollment for next year will be very close to last year, and there are no teacher changes for next year. Current pledges for the school addition remain at \$818k with \$686k paid on these pledges. The pledges should be completed by Dec 2026. The bleachers in the school gym will be replaced. The cost will be \$46k with pledges of \$10k each from Calvary Basketball, Calvary Volleyball and the Neumann Booster Club. St. Wenc Home School and next year's GALA will absorb the rest. The next project will be to upgrade the playground. Finance (Michael/Father) - The financials showed a \$108k deficit to budget for the first three quarters. The current year hasn't had as many estates/gifts, however two large gifts have come in during the last two weeks. School assessments are current. There are three diocesan assessments (\$135k total) due in June. The estimate at this point is that the fiscal year will end with a \$130 deficit on a projection of a \$180k deficit. There will be another pulpit talk on financials this summer to keep the numbers in front of the congregation.

### **New Business**

FOCUS Training for parishioners - Father is interested in exploring FOCUS-type training put on in parishes which equips parishioners to host Bible studies and disciple small groups of people. Has someone been inspired through Rescue Mission to work with small groups? SEEK Attendance in January 2026 – Would there be interest in a group of parishioners attending the SEEK conference? Stewardship committee will be tasked with exploring this possibility.

Acts XXIX conference attendance in 2026? Decided to focus on next round of Rescue Project and then discern where we are for conference attendance.

Bob has been approached about the need for some training on the purposes for using Latin in the liturgies as it is being used more during some Masses.

Short discussion was held on the music ministries and possibilities for consistencies and enhancements.

Next meeting is a business meeting on August 2, 2025. The September meeting will be a formation meeting with all parishioners invited.

Father Eickhoff led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally Gerdes, on behalf of Dianne Turman