

Saint Pius X
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday – September 9, 2025

Present: Father Mark Tomaszewicz, Kristine Ericson, Bill Fell, Mary Ellen Freyermuth, Jeremy Graney, Sam Griffin, Cheslee Klinger, Jerry Klug, Jessica Lathrop, Collin Matz, Norah Morris, Mary Coyle

Absent: Jerry Morrissey

I. Call to Order

Pastoral Council President Kristine Ericson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Mary Coyle recorded the names of those in attendance.

III. Opening Prayer

Father Mark led the opening prayer and read the Gospel of John 3:13-17. Council members silently reflected on the reading and then shared their thoughts with the group.

IV. Review and approve Pastoral Council meeting minutes from Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Kristine asked if there were any corrections needed for the June 17th minutes. Father Mark said a correction needed to be made in the *School Update* section of New Business. Father asked to change the sentence: “Father Mark reported St. Pius X/St. Leo School is now a separate corporation” to “Father Mark reported St. Pius X/St. Leo School is looking into the possibility of forming a separate corporation” and to add the sentence “No decision has been made yet.” Jessica Lathrop moved the minutes be approved with this correction. The June 17, 2025 minutes were approved.

V. Old Business

- ***Welcome Back***

Kristine welcomed council members back after the summer break. She reintroduced the new council members Jeremy Graney and Collin Matz. She reminded Jerry Klug and Jeremy Graney to submit a picture or bio. Sam Griffin was asked to submit his photo.

VI. New Business

- ***Mary’s Grotto***

- Bart Sullivan from the Knights of Columbus was present at the meeting to ask council members for some feedback on reconstructing Mary’s Grotto. He said a concrete pad had been poured on the west side of the front of the church a few years ago as part of an Eagle Scout project. Unfortunately, the project did not move past the concrete pad.
- Bart was asked if the original stones from the grotto could be used. Bill Fell said he has taken an inventory of the stones and believes all of them are available. The stained-glass panel for behind the statue is stored in the garage. Bart passed around photos of the original grotto and said he has surveyed Marian grottos at several Omaha-area churches.
- Jerry Klug said a stone mason needs to be found. Bart asked about the location of the grotto and the council members suggested reconstructing it on the west side of the front of the church. Bill said that location may have

drainage issues and during the winter, snow is sometimes pushed into that area.

→ Bart said the Knights will find a stone mason and then get an estimated cost for the project.

- ***Recruiting for the 2026 Festival Chairs***

→ Kristine said the parish will need to recruit chairs for the 2026 Festival and asked how those chairs should be solicited. Kristine read a letter written by the 2025 chairs Karen Hosier, Erica Williamson and Kristine concerning next year's Festival. Kristine said the former chairs have documented the Festival planning process so a new chairperson would not be starting from square one.

→ Father Mark read a letter from a representative of the parish Soccer Club. This group is also looking for a chairperson for 2026 Soccer Tournament held in conjunction with the Festival. Cheslee Klinger, who chaired the 2025 Soccer Tournament, said it was hard to get people to help. The Soccer Club is run by volunteers, and it has increasingly become a heavy burden for those volunteers. The Club is planning a meeting soon as a "last chance" for people to step forward to help so the tournament can continue.

→ Father Mark said the parish will begin advertising for Festival Chairpersons in early November. Kristine asked council members to think about parishioners who may be interested in chairing the 2026 Festival.

- ***Archbishop's Annual Appeal***

Father Mark said the Annual Appeal letter should be arriving in mailboxes soon. Kristine said she had already received hers. Father said new Archbishop Michael McGovern hopes to improve the annual appeal process. He said having a guest speaker during an upcoming liturgy and asking for prayer petitions may be part of the improvement process. Father said last year St. Pius X Parish reached between 50-60 percent of its goal.

- ***Parish Picnic Update, Planning***

The Parish Picnic will be on Sunday, October 5. The Knights of Columbus and Men's Club are helping to organize it. Picnic information will be in the bulletin.

- ***Parish Center / School Update***

→ The Parish Center renovations will be revealed during the picnic. Father Mark said parish groups have been working on the weekends to help clean after the construction. He said the parish has collected \$136,000 for the renovation. He added that new instructions/guidelines for keeping the renovated spaces clean will be provided to all who use the Parish Center.

→ The St. Pius X/St. Leo School Fundraiser will be on Saturday, October 25 at Creighton Prep.

Father Mark said all positions in the school have been filled. Collin Matz's wife is the new school liturgist, and he said she is really enjoying it.

The School Board will meet at the end of the month.

- ***Meet & Greet Topics***

Kristine was asked how the parish is doing financially - budget vs. actual? Father Mark said he reports the parish finances quarterly and a financial report was published in the enews and in the bulletin.

- **Pastor's Comments**

- Father Mark said the parish will continue to advertise for a new Pastoral Minister. He said he interviewed someone last week.
- Father said October 11 & 12 will be used to recognize and bless the Pastoral Council members at the 5 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. liturgies.

VII. Other

Kristine said last year's Fall Clean-Up around the parish was in November. Tentative dates for this year's clean-up are November 8 or 15.

VIII. Closing

Father Mark closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Mary Coyle
 Recording Secretary

Future Meetings-location TBD	Future Mass Meet & Greet
Oct 14	Oct 11-12
Nov 11	Nov 8-9
Dec 9 - tentative	Dec 6 - 7
Jan 13	Jan 10-11
Feb 10	Feb 7-8
March 10 ? Spring Break	March 7-8
April 14	April 11-12
May 12	May 9-10
June 9	June 6 - 7