

## APPROVED MINUTES

### ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA PASTORAL COUNCIL APRIL MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2026

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Judy Blank, Mikey Disbennett, Mike Essen, Karen Hultquist, Gina Leranthe, Jim Macke, Dennis Wiwi, Greg Niehaus

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bridget Eichhold, John Bedel, Brian Linneman, Alan Gerken,

**CLERGY IN ATTENDANCE:** Fr. Andrew Umberg

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Steve Pieper, SVdP President

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Mike Essen

**OPENING PRAYER:** Fr. Umberg

#### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS PASTORAL COUNCIL (PC) MEETING MINUTES:**

- Dennis Wiwi made a motion to approve the April, 2026 PC meeting minutes. He was seconded by Gina Leranthe. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **1 Upcoming Pastoral Council Elections**

- **Pastoral Council Elections:** Gina stated there are two candidates so far with the deadline for applicants approaching next weekend. It was suggested that the 5<sup>th</sup>-place finisher in last year's election be contacted to see if they were still interested. Bridget will talk to school staff to see if there is interest as it has been beneficial to have a school representative on council.
- **PC Vice President Election:** Mike will send details on VP & President responsibilities to the four first-year members on council to prepare for the VP election at the May meeting. (Edits added after PC review of 1<sup>st</sup> draft of these minutes)

##### **2 St. Vincent de Paul Update from Steve Pieper:**

- Steve stated the St I's conference is doing well and growing. There are now 29 members, the highest in 4 years. Incoming donations have doubled in the past year thanks to increased messaging & awareness with help from Fr. Umberg, the Parish Office, and the generosity of parishioners. The increased funding has allowed for a doubling in outreach spending to neighbors in need.
- Intake hotline calls average 10-12/wk and result in about 6 home visits per week. Visits are conducted in teams of two and neighbors typically request help with rent, utilities, or food. Bills are paid directly to the companies, not the individual, and food assistance is usually provided in the form of Kroger gift cards. Coordination is often done with neighboring conferences and nearby food pantries for additional support.

#### **PASTOR'S REMARKS:**

- **Holy Week Review:** The Holy Week events & masses, especially Easter Sunday, were well attended. The second liturgy on Good Friday evening was lighter than the afternoon but still reasonably attended. Some issues with the microphones were noted (outside the church on

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Easter Vigil & some noted “dead” spots when church was full on Easter Sunday). Also the debut of Palm Sunday & Easter antependia (altar frontage) with more to be made for special feast days.

- It was noted that the second baptismal font previously used for the Easter Vigil celebration was missing from the Church this year.
- **Church Improvements:**
  - Fr. Umberg is still looking for new Stations of the Cross for inside the church. The desire is to find larger displays that will be lighted and have some decorative trim around them.
  - The plan is to paint the remainder of the interior walls of the church this summer to complement the new sanctuary improvements from last year.
  - Fr. Umberg is evaluating cost & complexity of moving the Mary and Joseph statues closer to the sanctuary, “one section” or about 8 feet inward, and possibly add lighting. This would allow for easier visibility and veneration.
  - Improved speakers are being investigated to improve sound throughout the church.
  - Loyola Hall will be painted shortly after Easter.

**NEXT MEETING:** May 5, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the School Library

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Fr. Umberg

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mike Essen  
Pastoral Council President