

Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More
SUMMARY of the Pastoral Council Meeting
September 10, 2025

Present: Father Tim Holeda, Paul Malley, Dawn Adolfson, Jeanne O’Kon, Dasha Nixon, Gerard York, Sue Steverson, Silvia Alderman, Erika Richard, David Miller, Megan Perry-Thibault, Christa Calamas, Renee Reams. **Absent:** Sue Ebbbers.

Opening in Prayer and Mission Reminder: Father Tim read the Bible passage from John 3:13-17, emphasizing that we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide Council members. His vision is to present opportunities for people to connect and create a sense of belonging. The Council will focus on how this can be improved.

Listening and Discernment on Key Pastoral Concerns: Dawn reported on the issues that Father Tim is focusing on: Community, Liturgy, and Welcome (CHIRP). Council members submitted current pastoral priorities that deserve attention. Some suggestions were to build a ramp on the parking lot side, and to address security. One additional suggestion was to consider having a Music Mass called “The Mass of St. Thomas More.” A Master Plan is being developed and will take into consideration the parking and other ways of welcoming. There is an overflow number of people at several Masses, and ushers need to encourage people who are seated to move in. More ushers are needed for the crowded Masses. Both “Love” and “Aggressive hospitality” should be a part of their training. Other parishes have developed protocols for problematic situations.

Action Items: The staff will discern and execute some of these items. In addition to security, other concerns presented were bathroom facilities connected to the church, bathrooms opened for the 7:00 a.m. daily Mass, audio in the bathrooms allowing the ongoing Mass to be broadcast, an emergency or call button under the altar, disability reserved signs in the front of the church, a sign-up for families who want to bring up the gifts during Mass, and greater concern for the elders of the parish. Some discussion focused on the use of the Missalettes versus the Worship Aids that are currently provided. Some churches provide QR codes in the pews so people can follow the Order of the Mass on their phones. The Worship Aids are small and easy for people to use. Also, Father Tim mentioned that he would like to work on a more organized “sick” call to help bring the Eucharist to the sick. Parishioners can also be involved in visiting the sick.

Priorities and Recommendations: Security, hospitality, welcome, the elderly, and community building are primary Pastoral Priorities. The specific suggestions will be discussed in smaller staff meetings with the Executive Team. Then volunteers can be recruited to carry them out.

Practical Announcements: This weekend, the stewardship campaign is being announced called “*This is our Home.*” The Parish Picnic is on October 12th. The Christus Medicus Mass is on October 11th at 5:15 p.m. The staff held a meeting with an arborist to determine which trees need to be taken down and which ones can be grown

Closing Discernment and Prayer: Each Council member shared one insight about what he/she “heard the Spirit saying tonight.”

Future Meeting Dates: October 15 and November 19. The Parish Christmas party will take place on Saturday, December 13, after the 5:15 Mass.