**ST. LAWRENCE PARISH COUNCIL**

**may 27, 2025 (APPROVED JULY 22, 2025)**

STAFF/COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE MEMBERS

Pastor – Rev. Steven Reeves Sarah Burke (excused)

Justin Endler

Chairperson – Matt Rasche Linda Morris (excused)

Vice Chair – Aimee Burton Abby Nauert

Beth Rich

Finance Council – Emily Rickert (excused) Angela Taylor

Worship – Karen Kuenzig Danielle Wiegandt

Planning & Maintenance – Matt Rasche Amy Wilson

Stewardship – Deacon David Maxwell

Formation – Vicki Neuner Alternates: TBA

Personnel Committee – Gena Rasche

NDA – Dee Dee Nauert

Booster Club – Joe Rickert (excused)

Fr. Steven opened the meeting with a prayer. Fr. Steven noted there was a picture of the May crowning of Mary in *The Record.*  Matt called the meeting to order, & asked for approval of March minutes. March meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Aimee Burton, second by Gena Rasche.

**Pastor’s Report:**

1. Fr. Steven reported hiring of Ted Marks as Parish Business Manager/Director of Parish Operations. Will start at St. Lawrence on June 24. He currently serves as Deacon at St. Bernard Parish, and is retiring from YUM this week as IT Manager. Three strong candidates were interviewed. Donna Humphrey will retire June 13. Ted will receive training on software. Deacon David was in same Deacon class as Deacon Ted.
2. Proposed change in Communion Rite during Mass, to be implemented no later than June 22, 2025 – Fr. Steven handed out copy of letter received from Archbishop Shelton, concerning *Norms for Posture and the Communion Rite*. The proposed change was explained, and will be included in bulletin this week. Noted same info was published in recent *Record*. New rite recommends congregation to kneel after Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) and remain kneeling until joining the Communion procession. After receiving Holy Communion, the faithful will kneel when returning to their places, or sit if unable to kneel, for period of thanksgiving and personal prayer. Second point of letter is in regard to posture while receiving Holy Communion: standing is the norm for reception of Holy Communion. While standing, the communicant bows his or her head before receiving the Body of the Lord or the Precious Blood. Third point of letter addresses manners of receiving Holy Communion – Communicants may choose whether to receiving the consecrated Host in the hand or on the tongue. The faithful receive the Precious Blood by drinking directly from the Chalice after it is handed to them by the minister. Note: pastoral adaptations should be made for those who cannot take the normative postures due to physical limitations.
3. After discussion of the above proposed change in Communion Rite, Fr. Steven advised he would like to implement a further change, proposing change to 2 stations to distribute, instead of 4. People sitting on the side areas of church would go around to back area, and down the center aisle to receive. This would be modified back to 4 stations for Masses with larger crowds. Suggestion made to announce the minister would take Communion to anyone with a mobility challenge. Karen discussed change in how choir is rearranged, and receiving. Council further discussed this change and how best to distribute the Eucharist and Chalices to Ministers for smoother transition (suggest ministers come up and stand behind altar after Father receives).
4. Parish Planning Process as announced in *The Record*’s May 8 edition – Fr. Steven advised there are 4 parts to the Planning Process. First part is form sent to Pastors requiring Parish statistics and identifying strengths and challenges facing the Parish. Need input from Parish Council. This data should be complete by end of July, and will be shared with other Pastors at Deanery meeting & will come up with recommendations to send to Archdiocese. Archdiocese results will be reported by end of 2026. Matt advised he will prepare an online survey form for Parish Council to complete with 2 weeks, and will then be presented to Parish, asking for feedback. Discussion followed regarding how to present to parishioners, and what is goal/end result. Will discuss and analyze data at next PC meeting. Report due to Archdiocese by end of August.

St. Lawrence Parish Council – May 27, 2025

Page 2

**Chairman’s Report:**

* PC Roster – Asking current members who are scheduled to roll off, to stay on PC until end of year. Discussed upcoming review of PC Constitution to address member’s service time and other issues.
* Rockford Lane house has been demolished. Need fencing and guard rail installed. Plan to install a sign similar to sign on Lewiston & Joy Lovene, 2 sided. Will plant trees in the Fall. Beth suggested Don Rich could help procuring trees.
* Need removal of sign on lot further down Rockford Lane by practice field. Discussed options for this lot.
* Other Rockford Lane property next to Parish Hall – decision made to not offer to purchase the lot at this time.
* Strategic Planning Committees – 3 committees need to meet: Parish Council Constitution / Gathering Space / Divine Renovation

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PICNIC** – Dee Dee reported we need to sell raffle tickets and chances. Picnic scheduled for June 13-14, with bands both nights. Chicken dinner Saturday, food booths Friday, with regular booths both days. Need help in booths – contact Parish Office to volunteer. Will cut/prepare vegetables on Thursday, June 12. Cake baking day on Thursday evening and Friday morning. Fr. Steven advised he will celebrate Mass on Saturday at 4:00 PM, and again at Midnight for workers. No 8:00 AM Mass on Sunday, June 15. Discussed coverage in money room.

**CLOUT** – Beth Rich sent a 2-page report prior to meeting. First page showed details on Current Focus: Youth and Young Adult Mental Health, Community Safety & Equity, and Children & Youth Concerns. Second page listed some of the solutions that have been implemented out of CLOUT’s work.

**WORSHIP/MUSIC** – Karen Kuenzig sent report prior to meeting – highlights include: In Eastertide and Holy Days until July, with vestment colors white, red & white throughout the time. Quire has 3 Jubilee Year of Hope sites to visit in June, July, August. June 27 to Holy Cross in Marion County for 9:00AM Mass, Proto Cathedral on July 11 for 11:00 AM Mass, St. Martin on August 8 for noon Mass. Fr. Steven provided feedback on Lent, Holy Week, and Easter with suggestions, preferences, and changes to liturgy going forward.

**GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE –** Matt Rasche sent report prior to meeting: In April, one of the oak trees was cut down next to NDA Junior High, due to state of decay. A tree branch fell on CEC playground from a storm and the rest of the tree is required to be torn down. Parking lot is ~ 3 years old; will get quotes for seal coating this summer, and striping.

Meeting was adjourned with motion by Vicki Neuner, second by Danielle Wiegandt. Meeting was concluded with Deacon David offering prayer.

**NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 22, AT 6:30 PM, due to many members out of town when June meeting was scheduled. No June meeting.**

Respectively submitted,

Dee Gossman