

SACRED HEART CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 25, 2026

I. Opening prayer and attendance

The Sacred Heart Church Parish Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and began with a prayer. In attendance were Father Doug Dietrich; Trustees Mike Faimon and Aaron Davis; Katie Davis, Mark Bencken, Casey Kenny, Linda Gerloff, and Richard Konen; also in attendance was parishioner Stacy Faimon.

II. Financial Review

Father Dietrich shared a summary of the past checking account status, as well as the financial report from the beginning of June of last year through the end of June of this year. Because of the differences in how accounting systems were maintained between Campbell/Blue Hill and Red Cloud/Franklin, and bringing all four parishes together into one system, the expenses and income for Red Cloud and Franklin were added together. Because of the change, we were able to be a “pilot parish” for the new accounting program the diocese is switching to, and so from this time on, the income/expenses of all four parishes will be kept separate.

The main checking account for Sacred Heart Church had a balance of \$10,706.73 near the beginning of the fiscal year on August 31, 2025; reached a high of \$20,928.83 on January 31, 2026; and was at \$11,881.10 as of June 30, 2026. We have \$26,920.89 in the Diocesan Savings and Loan (DIAL) Account; \$23,108.12 in the DIAL Cemetery Account, \$3,034.13 in the DIAL World Youth Day Account; and Altar Society has \$5,558.21 in DIAL.

Overall, the financial outlook appears stable; income is meeting current expenses.

Father Dietrich shared his proposed budget for the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year. Members may review it as their leisure and make any recommended changes to Father Dietrich before the budget is submitted to the diocese in August.

Discussion was held on what to do with the DIAL World Youth Day Fund, which was started to fund a World Youth Day trip for Sacred Heart Parish Youth, but which never materialized because of COVID. It was decided to use the funds for various current youth activities, including CCD and Totus Tuus; money spent on these will be reimbursed on an annual basis by the WYD Fund until it is completed. At this time, we do not have a sufficient number of young people in the parish to make a future WYD trip likely.

III. New Business

A. Letter on the Liturgy: ideas, opinions on music/singing of Mass parts

Father Dietrich opened discussion on the recent letter from the diocese regarding the liturgy. The parish seems content with the amount of singing/chanting currently in practice, and open to increasing the use of chant to some extent.

B. Father Dietrich asked if the parish is content with the Missalettes we are using from Oregon Catholic Press. The parish seems happy with the Breaking Bread Missalettes currently in use. In discussing the number needed, it was decided that 40 should be sufficient, plus a few of the Missalettes with Daily Mass readings.

C. 2027 Calendar layout

Father Dietrich shared 3 different lay out options for the parish calendars. After discussion, it was proposed that parishioners who own businesses be asked to sponsor the calendars this year.

D. Father Dietrich asked if there would be any objections to replacing the large bench in the sanctuary with a set of chairs, and move the bench into the sacristy. There were no objections to the change.

E. The wheelchair accessible door facing the east has a difficult locking mechanism. Father Dietrich would like to switch that door out with the door connecting the breezeway to the parish hall, as that door is never closed, much less locked. No objections; Father Dietrich will make calls to arrange the project.

F. There have been problems with the rectory garage doors; the north one can only be opened manually now, and the south one opens and closes randomly. Father Dietrich would like to look into replacing them before winter. Linda Gerloff's son installs garage door; she will speak with him about pricing for the project.

G. Envelopes for the poor

Father Dietrich would like to have envelopes made available in the back of church, perhaps only a few months out of the year, to generate a fund to assist needy people in the area. Although there are social service agencies in the region to provide help, the parish receives calls mostly for people with dire and immediate needs: gas, rent, or food. Requests come very sporadically, but when they come, the need is usually urgent. It was agreed that envelopes to donate towards such help will be offered to the parish.

IV. Business from members

Sacred Heart will resume their own CCD Program this year, with classes being held on Wednesdays from 3:45 to 5:00 pm. High school students will continue going to Blue Hill for their youth group.

Mark Bencken called attention to some of the needs at the cemetery, including one headstone in need of repair, and the deterioration of the large white cross in the center of the Catholic section. The refurbishing of the cross has already been brought up at Altar Society, where discussion was held of looking into replacing the cross entirely, perhaps with a weather-resistance statue.

Father Dietrich will set up a time to meet with Mark at the cemetery to survey needed repairs.

IV. Next meeting date/adjournment

The next meeting will be sometime towards the end of October/beginning of November; it may be a regional meeting of all 4 parishes at either Campbell or Red Cloud. A tentative date of November 9th was proposed.

There being no business brought up by parish members, the meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Father Doug Dietrich