

GRACE Board of Directors

December 3, 2025

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Diocese of Green Bay, Chancery, St. Francis Xavier Conference Room

Members present: Bishop David Ricken, Fr. John Girotti, Dr. Becky Walker, Fr. James Baraniak, O.Praem., Fr. Jason Blahnik, Rev. Canon Antoine Boucheron, Fr. Adam Bradley, Fr. Mike Brennan, O.Praem., Fr. Andrew Cribben, O.Praem., Fr. Don Everts, Fr. Michael Ingold, Fr. Robert Kabat, Fr. Robert Kollath, Fr. Ryan Krueger, Fr. Jose Lopez Vargas, Fr. James Lucas, Fr. Quinn Mann, Abbot Gary Neville, Fr. Erick Ondieki, OFM Conv., Deacon Jeff Prickette, Fr. Mathew Simonar, Fr. William Stout, OFM, Fr. Juan Zarate

Others present: Kim Desotell, Sarah Green, Melissa Wolcanski, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Not present: Nick Anderson

- Call to Order and Opening Prayer: Bishop Ricken called the meeting to order with an opening prayer, welcome and opening remarks.
- Agenda Review and Approval: Motion made by Fr. Kabat and seconded by Fr. Bradley to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Fr. Ingold and seconded by Fr. Everts to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2025 meeting and the November 5, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.
- Election/Approval of Slate of Officers/Consultors/Trustees:
 - Officers: Motion made by Fr. Bradley and seconded by Fr. Kabat to the Officers of the Board of Directors as presented (Secretary and Treasurer requiring vote):
 - Chair – Bishop David Ricken
 - Vice Chair – Very Reverend John Girotti
 - Secretary – Reverend Don Everts
 - Treasurer – Very Reverend James LucasMotion carried.
 - Consultors: Motion made by Fr. Lucas and seconded by Fr. Ondieki to approve the slate of Consultors as presented:
 - Deacon Jeff Prickette, November 2022-present, continuing
 - Fr. Adam Bradley, May 2023-present, continuing
 - Fr. Don Everts, July 2023-present, continuing
 - Fr. Robert Kollath, New MemberMotion carried. Gratitude was extended to Fr. Ingold for his years of dedicated service and valuable contributions as he concludes his Consultors tenure.
 - Trustees: On behalf of Nick Anderson, Kim Desotell presented the three new members to the Board of Trustees. A brief overview was provided. Motion made by Fr. Kabat and seconded by Fr. Everts to approve the three new members of the Board of Trustees as presented: Dr. Steven Gale, Sarah Green, and Dana Pecho. Motion carried.
- Consultors Report: Fr. Don Everts reported that the Consultors met in November and welcomed Sarah Green as the new Finance Committee Chair. The group reviewed the updated parish verification form, which now incorporates current Church Precepts language, along with the results of the recent financial audit indicating a clean and healthy financial standing. They also discussed the feasibility report on fundraising for employee compensation, offering feedback and suggesting the inclusion of a GRACE representative at parish annual meetings to present outcomes and highlight how parish investments are supporting our mission. Additionally, the Consultors reviewed current membership, as reflected in today's meeting.

- Superintendent of Catholic Schools Report: Dr. Becky Walker distributed her report, highlighting the work of the Office of Catholic Schools across several key areas.
 - Catholic Identity and Mission: Efforts include catechetical certification, diocesan course development, a highly successful Vocations Fair, and ongoing planning for vocation ministry training.
 - Operational Vitality: Notable developments include overall increased enrollment, the formation of a committee to evaluate the subsidy model, and a diocesan meeting of business managers.
 - Academic Excellence: Academic standards have been updated, and a professional development session was held in November.
 - Governance: Significant number of governance documents have been updated, and the 2026–27 Office of Catholic Schools calendar has been issued.

Discussion followed. Bishop Ricken presented on “reclaiming Sunday,” emphasizing Sunday worship as a core value. Further conversation included discussions, efforts, and strategies to promote. Fr. Kollath and Abbot Neville shared how incorporating a regular children’s Mass was successful in fostering engagement.

- System President’s Report and Board of Trustees Update: President Desotell highlighted the following from her report and presented also on behalf of Chair, Nick Anderson.
 - WRISA Accreditation: Formal accreditation reports are expected to be received this month and will be shared when available. This faith-based accreditation reflects the overall health and vitality of our schools, affirming our commitment to academic excellence and Catholic identity.
 - Annual Report 2024-25: The report was distributed and reviewed. Electronically the report is available on the system website- [LINK](#).
 - Newsletter: The Fall GRACE Newsletter was provided in print and is available on the system website- [LINK](#).
 - [Strategic Plan](#): The GRACE Board of Trustees continues to oversee and implement initiatives in pursuit of the 2024-27 focus area goals.
 - Holy Cross Catholic School: An update was provided since that which was last addressed at the November 5, 2026 meeting.
 - St. John Paul II Classical School Gym Facility Project: Fundraising was paused due to the restructure work being conducted by the Diocese. The September 29, 2025 letter sent to the community reviewing this pause is available on the school website for reference- [LINK HERE](#). The project team will be regrouping to revisit relaunch. Discussion followed.
 - Annual Appeal: The current goal-to-date status of the 2025-26 appeal was provided. The status of the Annual Appeal remains available on the system website- [LINK HERE](#).
 - Challenges: President Desotell reported on system challenges, as requested in prior meeting discussions. Areas reviewed included talent acquisition (teacher shortages), the “people side” of the organization (managing expectations and related concerns), facility challenges, and efforts to build the domestic Church. Discussion followed.
 - GRACE Feasibility Study: President Desotell and Melissa Wolcanski presented on preparation efforts for an employee compensation campaign. The presentation outlined educator stories, progress being made on the recommendation steps from Partners in Mission (PIM), next steps, and timeline. Discussion followed. The Study outcome will be revisited at the next Board meeting.

- Financial Matters:
 - 2024-25 Financial Audit: Melissa Wolcanski reviewed the audit summary, Wipfli Year-End Auditor's Report, and Wipfli Required Communications Letter. It was a clean audit which commended tight controls and protocols. Discussion followed. Motion made by Deacon Prickette and seconded by Fr. Cribben to approve the Wipfli Year-End Auditor's Report 2024-25. Motion carried.
 - Parish Investment: Melissa Wolcanski reviewed the Formula for GRACE Parish Investment Allocation and the Summary Change GRACE Investment After Transition Plan. Continued reduction is taking place according to plan. Discussion followed. Motion made by Fr. Kabat and second by Fr. Baraniak to approve the Total 2026-27 Allocation with Rent Change as outlined. Motion Carried. Motion made by Fr. Bob Kabat and seconded by Fr. Don Everts to approve the 2026-27 Allocation at 24% Parish Investment % of Revenue. Motion carried; Fr. Blahnik abstained.
 - 2025-26 Current Financials: Sarah Green presented the report on financials ending September 30, 2025 which reflects one month of school operations.

- Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. with closing remarks by Bishop Ricken.

Next meeting: April 22, 2026