



Diocese of Green Bay
DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2021

Attendees: Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverends John Girotti and Bill O'Brien, Reverend Tony De los Santos, Deacons Chuck Agnew and Tom Tomaszewski, Mary Poch, Lori Juza, Barb Kimme, Tom Koss, Dan Malcore, Jeff Taylor, Sister Natalie Binversie, OSF, David Wheeler, Wally Thomson and Travis Vanden Heuvel

Excused/Absent: Very Reverend Brad Vanden Branden, O. Praem., Deacon Dave Scheuer, James Fay, John Folk, Javier Gomez, Betty Hove, Mark Merkatoris and Jenn Wood

Opening Activities

- Meeting opened at 9:03 a.m.
- Bishop Ricken led the group in opening prayer
- Mission Statement was recited by Council members.
- Introductions by the group.
- A motion was made to approve and adopt the meeting minutes of August 28, 2021 as written. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Respect Life – Walking with Moms in Need Elisa Tremblay and Peter Weiss

Bishop: Elisa Tremblay is the Marriage and Life Ministries Director and Peter Weiss is the Director of Living Justine and they co-lead the Office of Pro-Life.

Peter: This program was developed at the USCCB level, and it provides Catholics a path to support the mom. We collected information, streamlined the process and shared the information with parishes. Parish staff received packets of information, including a print out for their bulletin board. One poster outlines the three main agencies and what they offer and they are: crisis pregnancy center, Catholic Charities and St. Gianna Clinic. We have created a micro website called Disciplesforlifegb.org. We update pro-life items on the micro website and it also includes events we have in our area.

Bishop: Mom's in Need is such an important program. We need to show we are pro-life by walking with moms in need.

Peter: We want to get the information out about what is available now. We also want to identify where the gaps are. The hope is also to get individuals to look at what their own gifts are and get involved. January 22, 2022 we will host the third annual pro-life conference at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help with Moms in Needs as our theme. We will have a panel discussion. There is a track in the morning for high school and young adults.

Elisa: This material is marketed to the people in the parish who could share information with people in need. The conference in January is livestreamed and in person.

Peter: This is a beginning and then we can look to the next layer of resources.

Synod Tammy Basten

Bishop: The Holy Father called for a global consultation, a synod. A process of where the church listens to the needs of the people, learn how to gather the proper listening information. We already have been on a synodal listening pathway with Disciples on the Way.

Tammy We began this synod October 17 with an opening Mass at the Cathedral. All of the diocese are coming together and doing this and it represents journeying together. Calling forth the Holy Spirit and prayer is a huge part of this. Every gathering can integrate the synod. There are themes that have been provided to us. The themes include: journeying companions, listening, speaking out, celebrating, co-responsible in the mission, dialogue in church and society, with the other Christian denominations, authority and participation, discerning and deciding, forming ourselves in synodality. We need to ensure rural parishes can get the resources they need. It is about identifying the needs. Sometimes it is looking for the strengths already in place near the parish and coordinate. We want everyone to feel like they all have a chance. We would like to do a website, include the resources and allow parishes to use the website as a portal and share witness stories from parishes.

Ministry to Priests Bishop Ricken

Bishop We have 156 parishes with 59 active diocesan priests, 24 international priests, 11 religious order priests active in parishes and 16 pastoral leaders. We also have 56 senior priests, many of them helping with sacramental needs.

We have two diocesan goals, a vocation goal and a discipleship goal. The vocation goal: by 2025, we will call forth and form 30 seminarians to be missionary leaders in the priesthood. We have a Kairos year for men prior to going into seminary. Last year we had five men and this year we have seven men. The discipleship goal: by 2025, we will call forth and form hundreds of missionary leaders who will mobilize thousands of missionary disciples who disciple at least two others. We have trained 8,000 leaders in understanding what evangelization and discipleship is. Worship Jesus will be three years. The Bishop Conference is doing Eucharistic Revival for three years, will begin in every diocese on Corpus Christi 2022. That is leading to 2024 where there will be a very large national Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis with 80,000 folks. We will be sending delegates to that. In 2025, we will have a large diocesan gathering for a Eucharistic Congress, where we will have a Mass and commission 1,000 missionary disciples.

Fr. Bill's role is the external affairs, to visit parishes. We need to help our priests, support, encourage and pray for them. The needs have changed. We cannot provide all of the same services to each parish. Doing this around priests and parish leaders, find ways to engage and listen. Want DPC to listen at your parish and in your vicariate. We need to look at how we utilize the DPC better. I want to help set the direction for where the diocese goes. Need to get more people engaged. Look at how our diocese can be missionary discipleship. The church exists in order to evangelize.

Closing Comments

Bishop Thank you, your input is very important. It is an incredible gift to work for you.

Closing Prayer Fr. Girotti

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Duvall
Recording Secretary