



Diocese of Green Bay
DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2021

Attendees: Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverends Brad Vanden Branden, O. Praem. and Daniel Felton, Deacons Chuck Agnew, Tom Tomaszewski and David Scheuer, Mary Poch, Dan Malcore, Jeff Taylor, John Folk, Sister Natalie Binversie, OSF, Wally Thomson, Steve Parent, David Wheeler, Jenn Wood, Javier Gomez, Paula Freimuth, Betty Hove, Travis Vanden Heuvel and Mark Merkatoris

Excused/Absent: Reverend Nonito Barra and James Fay

Opening Activities

- Meeting opened at 9:02 a.m.
- Bishop Ricken led the group in opening prayer
- Mission Statement was recited by Council members.
- A motion was made to approve and adopt the meeting minutes of December 5, 2020 as written. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- Bishop thanked those who term expires June 30, 2021.

Check-In—Fr. Dan

Fr. Dan did a quick check-in with the group.

Snapshot of Diocesan Data and Touchpoints—Fr. Dan Felton

Fr. Dan shared some data on parishes as a whole. Overall on the year for parish offertory, we are down about 6.3%. We have worked with every parish to see if they qualify for PPP2. About 25-30 parishes qualify for PPP2. From first week of February to March 7, we have seen an increase of about 10,000 coming to Mass during that time. We had mass attendance around 69,000 before covid. Right now we are seeing about 34,700. We are moving in the right direction. Seven counties in our sixteen counties are in the moderate or low category risk, six counties are in moderate high risk and three counties in a high level risk. We continue to monitor this. If a parish remains in a moderate level for three weeks, then we can shift what they can do. We have information on the website about those categories. Currently, we want to keep many of the protocols in place.

Presentation on Planning Priorities—Bishop Ricken

I have a little over six years left. Our vision and mission is a great blessing which we are beginning to live out. The most important and urgent need is to guide the Diocese through the pandemic, find a path forward through recovery to mission, gradually welcoming the people back to in-person attendance at Mass. We have a taskforce that looks at the Covid information weekly. We will be hiring a Young Adult Director to implement a missionary vision for the discipleship of young adults. We would like to have information sharing between groups. The Young Adult Director will be able to help make connections.

Important and Pressing:

We are making a transition at the curia. The diocese is all of the counties within the diocese. We are here to serve the diocese, hold the diocese to a certain level of accountability. We are trying to connect the field with the diocesan offices more. I am freeing up Fr. Dan to be Vicar General only. Fr. Dan will be

able to work more closely with the priests and parishes in the vicariate. Fr. John Girotti will assume responsibilities as Moderator of the Curia. Fr. Girotti will help the Mission Teams work together and continue our growth and development. That will all begin in full as of July 1, 2021.

Worship Jesus: Plan and implement the beginning of the Worship Jesus years 2022-2024. Help the people to know and love the Sunday Mass and the Presence of Christ in the Word and in the Eucharist.

The purpose of the Worship Years:

1. To know and understand the nature of true Worship of Jesus who leads us to the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. To know and to love the Mass as the primary way we Worship God every Sunday.
3. To consistently engage in acts of repentance and conversion and to access the Mercy of God in the Sacrament of Penance.
4. To know and love the Word of God, truly living and present in our midst every time we proclaim and preach from it, study it and mediate on it.
5. To know and love the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

The Director of Worship Role:

- Hire an Assistant Director of Worship
Conformity questions with the USCCB plan
- Anticipatory set for the role of the Holy Spirit throughout.

Possibilities for Planning:

- Emphasize the daily Holy Hour for priests.
- Emphasize the weekly adoration for the parishes by the priests, with special emphasis on vocations to the priesthood.
- Other emphasis throughout the plan: welcome, preaching sacred music.
- Prepare for a diocesan Eucharistic Congress.
- Anticipatory preparation for the Share Jesus Years 2024-2027.

Priest and parish leadership formation: To decide on a delivery system for the ongoing formation of the priests and pastoral leaders: Congress, Convocation and other possibilities. Look at one on one coaching or in small groups.

- Helping priests and pastoral leaders to build and lead their parish teams using the discipleship and leadership development curriculum already developed.
- Help them to help one another spiritually and pastorally.
- Help the curia to really service the parishes with coaching and resourcing.

Major Decision Making and Implementation Projects

- Formation: Develop a plan for the Diaconate Formation Program and Lay Ecclesial Ministry Leadership based on solid formation in missionary discipleship and leadership.
- Culture: Continuation of culture impact team formation in the Curia and expand through discipleship and leadership development to the parishes.

Important and On-Going

Implementation of the vision, mission, values and goals will drive most of our activities for the next 7-10 years. Our major overarching task is to get as many people as possible on board in the parishes, schools and ministries with owning and delivering on the two goals which are critical to not only our survival but also the future growth and development.

Goal setting: Checking in on goal achievement and development with the goal teams.

Vocation Goal: By 2025, we will call forth and form 30 seminarians to be missionary leaders in the priesthood.

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.

Major Donor Development Contacts

- As the parishes, schools and diocesan offices begin to recover from the pandemic it is very apparent that the needs at every level in our diocese have grown and changed over the last year. In addition to the \$6M already pledged for my part of the one by One campaign goal, another \$9M is needed to meet my portion of the overall goal.
- The restart of the one by One campaign will begin with parishes that are eager to move forward with the campaign to meet their needs. Additional blocks of parishes will be built out on need and readiness to initiate the campaign.

One Take Away from Bishop's Presentation —Fr. Dan

The group had a discussion on Bishop's presentation today.

Closing Comments

Fr. Dan—I will be staying in my role with the Diocesan Pastoral Council. We have 154 parishes with 3 missions, 62 active diocesan priests. If you add in the international priests and religious order priests, we have 101 active priests. The general rule is to have no more than 25% of active priests be international priests. The urgency of the vocation goal and discipleship goal are important.

Fr. Brad Vanden Branden closed with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Duvall
Recording Secretary