



Diocese of Green Bay
PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2021

Attendees: Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverends John Girotti, Bill O'Brien and Luke Ferris, Reverends Bill Hoffman, Adam Bradley, James Lucas, Bill Swichtenberg, Carl Schmitt, Daniel Schuster, Larry Seidl, Doug LeCaptain, Joel Sember, James Baraniak, O. Praem. and Barry Metzentine
N/A: Fr. Tom Long

Opening Activities

- Meeting opened at 10:07 a.m.
- Bishop Ricken led the opening prayer
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve and adopt the meeting minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting as written. Motion approved unanimously.
- Mission statement was recited by Council members.

Bishop Opening Comments

The one by One campaign is going very well. Overall, the goal is \$70M, we are almost to \$30M. I have a goal of \$15M and I am at \$5.2M. This year there will be about 80 parishes involved in the campaign. The Foundation and CCS need to each hire two more people to help with the campaign. The Worship Jesus year will be launched from the Cathedral in June 2022. Parishes will begin in July 2023. The bishops' have voted to do a Eucharistic Revival with a National Eucharistic Congress 2024 in Indianapolis. I want to have a Diocesan Eucharistic Congress in 2025 and commission 1,000 missionary disciples.

Update on Priests/Report on Priests who are Ill—Fr. Luke Ferris

Fr. Luke reported on priests who are ill.

Eucharistic Revival – Current Plans—Dcn. Shaun Johnson

Bishop—Julianne is on the Evangelization and Catechesis committee with USCCB. This coincides with our Eucharistic Revival. We will walk through the three years.

Dcn. Shaun— The USCCB is also working on the Eucharistic Revival. They will have national speakers available to the diocese. There will be materials available. We are working on merging the Eucharistic Revival with what we are currently working on, Worship Jesus. This will run for the next three years. 2022 is forming form mters. We have a team working on forming the form mters, looking at the key members of school and parish life. 2023 is working with the parishes with a parish rollout. In 2023 focus on Word and 2024 focus on the Eucharistic presence. Take the stuff that we are already doing and stepping it up to the next level. Look at best practices for parishes and share with vicariates. Julianne and I will be talking through next steps and then meeting with the curia and diocesan teams for next steps.

Bishop—We want parishes to choose one or two things to improve faith life in your parish. Very simple processes can be helpful.

Update on Priest Retreat - Bishop Ricken

Bishop—We need to talk about themes that would be beneficial for the priest retreat. We could begin the focus on the Word or the Eucharist. There are many themes that we can bring into our priest retreat. I will be there this June for the priest retreat. How would you like us to approach for this priest retreat?

The group had a discussion on possible themes for the next priest retreat. Some ideas included: silent retreat, missionary discipleship and mission field, healing, uplifting, have diocesan priests be the speakers and share personal stories.

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

Peter—Director of Living Justice and co-lead the Pro-Life office. USCCB is offering a program, “Walking with Moms in Need”. We are looking at discipleship, evangelization and understand our work through that lens. We want to bring social justice and pro-life people together, we are disciples and everything flows from that and human dignity. Disciples for Life, we rebranded our office. The program is about walking with women in need, accompaniment. We have Catholic Charities, St. Gianna Clinic and pregnancy centers as some of the resources in the Diocese of Green Bay. We streamlined the process so each parish does not need to do an inventory.

Elisa—Director of Marriage and Family Life and co-lead the Pro-Life office. Disciples for Life packet is sent to each parish. Our office took inventory of the resources in our diocese. We made phone calls and reached out to hear what is happening. Many centers were rebranding themselves. We created a resource that parishes could hang up with resources and what they offer and they include: crisis pregnancy centers, Catholic Charities and St. Gianna Clinic. We also have another sheet with more information with what they offer. There is a QR code on the form. We also offer bulletin inserts that have been sent electronic through Parish Pages.

Peter—It is about sharing the information so that people can be knowledgeable. We also want to see where the gaps are. On January 22, we will be having our Disciples on Life conference at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. We will have a panel with resources.

Elisa—We created a micro site for this information, you can go to Disciplesforlifegb.org.

Bishop—I encourage people to preach about life. Walking with moms in need give us a more positive way to talk about this. Thank you very much. We need to get this information out to parishes, fast and pray.

Ministry to Priests – Bishop Ricken

Bishop—The mission field is different than prior to Covid. I come from mission territory. A priest has many parishes, someone cares for the community as best they can and the priest comes in limited capacity. What does that mean? How do we optimize our presence as pastor in the parishes under our care? Look at the definition of a mission church. This is going to be something that the Presbyteral Council, Regional Vicars, priests and pastoral leaders need to be involved in. Maybe look at structural reorganization. Mission churches have less structure but sacraments are there. Are we taking good care of the priests and one another? Would you like more help with organizations to help with shepherding? Do we need to look at some of these issues? Look at the needs of the local community.

The group had a discussion on priest and parish needs:

- In terms of the availability of the sacraments, we need to look at how we can team together. Support what is already there.
- Look at size of the vicariate.
- Empower the local parish.
- Add another layer between Vicar for Clergy and priests. Convert vicariates into deaneries.
- Involve parish councils and finance councils.
- Involve senior priests in the discussion.
- Bishop visits with priests by vicariate.
- Have deanery meetings, maybe some senior priests could help with the meetings.
- Look at individual vicariate needs.

Bishop—We have a few vicariate appointments that will be ending. I want to stabilize the role of vicar, get a job description and I want the role to be clear.

Fr. Girotti—The hope is to get the Regional Vicars set by July 1, 2022.

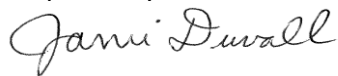
Bishop—I would like to ask for a motion to move forward with the use of the vicariate, might be deans. **A motion was made and seconded to use the vicariate model more intentionally. Motion carried unanimously.**

Q & A

Bishop closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Duvall

Recording Secretary