



**Diocese of Green Bay**  
**PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 8, 2020**

**Attendees:** Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverend Daniel Felton, Monsignor James Dillenburg, Reverends James P. Leary, OFM Cap, Bill Hoffman, Adam Bradley, Tom Long, Bill Swichtenberg, Joel Sember, Doug LeCaptain and Timothy Shillcox, O. Praem.

**Excused:** Reverends Dave Hoffman, Carl Schmitt and Very Reverend Luke Ferris

**Opening Activities**

- Meeting opened at 10:04 a.m.
- Bishop Ricken led the Council members in the Liturgy of the Hours.
- 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 December 5, 2019 meeting as written. Motion approved unanimously.
- Mission statement was recited by Council members.

**Bishop Opening Comments**

Bishop—St. Joseph is a powerful intercessor and very quietly answers prayers very thoroughly. We need his assistance as we become a community of missionary disciples who are deeply grounded in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as individuals, families and as communities of disciples growing in holiness and generosity. This will be a year of prayer in honor of St. Joseph for three intentions:

- To pray for our families to grow in prayer and holiness and healing of relationships.
- To pray for the universal Church with special focus on prayer for the Holy Father, for the Bishop and priests of the Diocese, especially for a greater sense of spiritual fatherhood.
- To pray for an abundant increase of vocations, especially to the priesthood in the Diocese of Green Bay.

The year will run from March 19, 2020 through March 19, 2021. This will be a diocesan wide prayer effort with a prepared Diocesan prayer to be recited in homes, schools, religious education classes, etc. The prayer can be prayed on Sundays at Mass after the intentions or after the post-communion prayer. This is not a mandate, but highly encouraged. The Shrine of St. Joseph will be a part of this year. The Shrine of St. Joseph is located on the campus of St. Norbert College.

**Discuss Revised Senior Priest Retirement Policy—Fr. Dan**

The group went over a draft of the Senior Priest Retirement Policy document.

**Propose 2020-2021 Priest & Pastoral Leader Salary Scale**

Fr. Dan—We are recommending a 2.5% increase for priest and pastoral leader salaries. This is a recommendation that we need to put this into the budget for diocese and for parish budgets.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend a 2.5% increase to priest salary. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend the proposal of a 2.5% increase for pastoral leaders. Motion carried unanimously.

**Update on Priests/Report on Priests who are Ill—Gloria Koth**

Gloria Koth, priest nurse, reported on priests who are ill or recovering from surgery. The majority of her time is visiting with senior priests and helping International Priests with health care education to better understand the health care system. A big thing is to educate priests to live in the best places for their needs. Gloria is funded from the LBA and partially from the St. Luke Corporation. Gloria is looking to schedule some luncheons to improve socialization with the priests in the homes in the diocese. She would like to bring in some of the priests nearby the home to join in with the visit.

**Discuss Proposed Discipleship Goal—Bishop Ricken and Fr. Dan Felton**

Fr. Dan—The diocese has one priority and two goals.

*Priority:* Calling forth and forming leaders who love Jesus and live his mission.

*Discipleship Goal:* By 2025, we will call forth and form 1,000 missionary leaders who will mobilize 25,000 missionary disciples who disciple at least two others.

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

Fr. Dan—We wanted the numbers for the discipleship goal to be aspirational, measurable and an opportunity for growth.

Bishop—Is this number in the Discipleship goal realistic or overstated? Should we start with lower numbers or go for big numbers? The Holy Spirit is critical to disciple making. A missionary disciple is someone who knows the Lord, follows him and discipled others. Those who walk with others to know Christ, and then they walk outside the parish to disciple others. The role of an individual would assist the pastor with missionary discipleship in the parish.

Bishop—Fr. Riccardo has offered to work with five parishes to help begin the renewal of the parish, a Parish Renewal Initiative. The Discipleship Goal is about making disciples and many people already are doing this, but it might be with a different intention.

Feedback:

- Struggle with the number. Stewardship took root over the years. And what we are doing now is taking root. I am hesitant to put it in a box.
- Putting the goal out will be a challenge in of itself. Less is more to start with. And then permit the Lord to do it. We cannot one size fits all. Start with the very basic of identify, relationship and mission.
- Include the first number but do not include the second number. We will call forth and form 1,000 missionary leaders who will disciple other missionary disciples.
- Look at more what does the words mean. What are we doing to call forth and mobilize? What are we offering? What are we providing? What are we challenging people to do?
- How do you start this? Where are we going to put our energy?
- Need to know our mission field. Empower and train those we already know to reach out to their family members that have walked away from the church. We already have the sandbox. If this goal helps people to have the toolbox, it seems that will help so many people. Put faces on those numbers.

- We have to share those conversion stories. Can I trust enough to get down on my knees to ask the Lord to begin a transformation? This is about hearts. I think there could be a lot of parish leaders who have not had their hearts transformed. Help me to find people to tell these testimonies of how the Lord has transformed their life and have them tell these stories. I think that is where the Holy Spirit is working. It is about abandonment and surrender. It is about how I live my life every day.
- Some people in the pew are comfortable where they are.
- Find ways to empower our lay men and women. Formation will be important.

Bishop—The content of evangelization is Jesus. Helping people know him, love him, serve him and bring others to him. We want to get enough movement. You cannot be fruitful unless you disciple others. The numbers are about making a critical mass that gets legs for movement.

Fr. Dan—Look at the numbers from a quantitative or qualitative perspective. So many have gone through the training and others have the skillset but have not going through the training. This is not limited to parishes. It would also include apostolates and Catholic schools.

Bishop—Missionary discipleship is to introduce others to Jesus.

Feedback:

- Have you thought about using percentages? 25% of the people in the pews are missionary disciples within 5 years. We are going to work hard with a smaller group of people to get our people energized.
- There are many parishioners that will be prayer warriors while others go through formation.
- Share the experience of the process of coming to the goal. It gets us away from maintenance to growth.
- Many times a transformation has been outside the parish setting. And then that sends people back in for the Sacraments and parish life.
- More interested in qualitative versus quantitative. Call forth and form hundreds of missionary leaders who will mobilize thousands of missionary disciples.

Fr. Dan—To summarize the discussion:

1. We are at a crossroads with quantitative and qualitative.
2. State the numbers a different way or drop the numbers.
3. Move this from being a diocesan number to more of a local number. Look at a percentage of a parish church versus a diocesan number.

Bishop—It is about parishes and community.

Fr. Dan—The two goals are curia goals. These goals can only be done in cross-function and collaboratively with parishes, schools and curia. The curia is the lead agent.

Bishop—Thank you for this discussion, this is great sharing.

**Discuss Proposed Vocation Goal, Objectives & Action Plan**—Bishop Ricken and Fr. Dan Felton  
*Vocation Goal:* By 2025, we will call forth and form 30 seminarians to be missionary leaders in the priesthood.

Fr. Dan—The Vocation Planning Group is a cross-functional group that is helping come up with an action plan for the Vocation Goal to present to the Roundtable Leadership Team. The Holy Spirit was part of the process. There emerged two types of action, encounter and accompaniment. If we are trying to create an experience in prayer and silence, we need to offer this to priests to show them the benefits of that kind of experience. There is a need for contemplative and action for the

Vocation Goal. Have silent directed retreats. Do more St. Andrew dinners in and outside of Green Bay. We are looking for feedback on the rough draft of the action steps put forward for the Vocation Goal.

The group had a discussion on the rough draft of the Vocation Planning worksheet. This discussion included talk about what role priests, parishes and schools can play in vocations.

**Vicariate Report-out**

Bishop—I will be visiting vicariates for meetings with priests/pastoral leaders.

**Q & A**

Fr. Dan—CCS is on the ground for the one by One capital campaign. They are done with their rapid response. They will make some recommendations. There will be a priest meeting for Block 2 with CCS.

Bishop—Went to the national conference for Encounter Ministries. Always keep your eyes focused on the source and not the resource.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Duvall  
Recording Secretary