



**Diocese of Green Bay**  
**DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 13, 2018**

**Attendees:** Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverends Daniel Felton and Brad Vanden Branden, O. Praem., Reverend Nonito Barra, Mary Poch, Dottie Borowski, Jeff Taylor, James Fay, John Folk, Clare DuMontier, David Wheeler, Sister Natalie Binversie, Paula Freimuth and Elizabeth Kostichka

**Excused/Absent:** Wally Thomson, Steve Parent, William Graf, Pat Ratajczak, John Folk, Mark Merkatoris, Joyce Rolland, Michael Witte, Deacon David Scheuer and Betty Hove

**Opening Activities**

- Meeting opened at 9:02 a.m.
- Bishop Ricken led the assembled in the Liturgy of the Hours.
- Mission Statement was recited by Council members.
- A motion was made to approve and adopt the meeting minutes of January 13, 2018 as written. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- Introductions from each individually.

**Opening Comments—Bishop Ricken**

Bishop—The DPC is one of my consultative bodies. The Diocesan Pastoral Council represents the field. You have lots of experience and it is very valuable. This group has shared a lot of good information and feedback. Help us to move the diocese forward.

**Personal & Vicariate Feedback on Recent Developments**

Bishop Ricken—Go through current news. The Holy Father has asked for a complete study of the files in the Vatican. In November, the bishops will talk about accountability of bishops. More and more transparency is being called for. We have done several listening sessions. The comments and questions from the listening sessions have been compiled and we will be answering some of those in The Compass. We have an Independent Review Board and it was recommended to do an independent review from outside.

There was a sheet of questions to start the discussion and give feedback. The group received the Seven Steps of Accountability. Group gave feedback and suggestions.

- Transparency, describe and understand the process
- Need a social media platform to reach generations, look at all social media options
- Need Spanish translation
- Clarification of where people go for help
- Compassion
- Solidarity for people in the pews, offer a prayer for solidarity
- Share a positive story, Holy Family Parish in Sioux Saint Marie in Ontario used as example
- Perception of costs associated with.
- Recommend using the Our Lady of Good Help prayer.

Bishop—Thank you very much for sharing.

**Update on Parish Planning & Capital Campaign**—Todd Blahnik, Superintendent of Schools.

The school plan came out end of January. On a high level, a goal was to fully staff the office. We have added two positions to the team, a Director of School Planning and a Director of School Advancement.

There is a need to tell our stories. We need to be telling the stories about the great things that are happening. We are working with the Communications department to look for ways to get the stories out. We celebrated a school Mass. We are intentionally pushing the story out about the school Mass event. We are asking stories to be shared from the bottom up.

A handout was shared with the group to show some good news that we are up in enrollment. The handout shows data going back to 2012. We are up about 2%. When you divide by regions, each region had an increase. The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program was one of the factors. Eight schools had growth, who are not in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. We have strong leaders who have a strong Catholic vision. We are reaching out to the Hispanic community. We are using the Mission Insight tools. Parents are the best evangelists. It has been a combination of things. Accessibility is a factor.

Bishop—Have a partnership with the parish and schools. We are one community. We are trying to find ways to enrich the parish by bringing the parents into the parish for worship. Invest in the school and invest in the children.

Todd—We need to intentionally build relationships with the parish and school. Todd is working with the Parish Life Mission Team as they role out parish mission planning to parishes. Todd is included in the planning process to connect schools into the process. The relationships being built with the process is important.

Over the summer, the Wisconsin Department of Justice had a grant. We had over \$600K of grants that went into our schools regarding safety.

We are in the midst of our accreditation process. It is focused on Catholic Identity. We are seeing the schools be much more intentional. We as a diocese will need to add some pieces connected to discipleship. School leadership is doing Alpha across the diocese. The feedback has been positive.

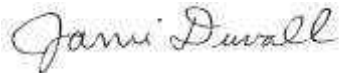
**Q & A**

**Closing Comments**

Bishop—Thank you so very much. We thank you for your work.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Duvall  
Recording Secretary