

**DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 17, 2014**

Members Present: Bishop David Ricken, Tammy Basten

Vicariate Representatives: Pat Kosuth (I), Stuart Gruszynski (I), Julie Birr (II), Michael Witte (II), Judi Gosenheimer (III), Steve Vanden Heuvel (III), John Reilly (IV), Deborah Schmidt (V), Jan Clark (VI), Michael Donart (VI), William Graf (VII), Cindy Massey (VII).

Appointed Representatives: Terry Olivas (DCCW Rep.), and Deacon Lincoln Wood (Clintonville)

Appointed Religious Representatives: Sister Natalie Binversie, OSF (Manitowoc), and Reverend Patrick Gawrylewski, OFM (Green Bay).

Members Absent/Excused: Patrick Hart (IV), Debbie Griem (V), Deacon Randy Haak (Kaukauna), Abbot Gary J. Neville, O.Praem (DePere), Sister Donna Koch, OSF (Green Bay), Deacon Charles (Chuck) Schumacher (Peshtigo), Elizabeth Kostichka (Green Bay) and Deacon Timothy Reilly.

CALL TO ORDER:

Bishop Ricken called the meeting to order at 8:45 A.M. and Morning Prayer was prayed. The mission statement was read.

MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2014 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA:

The agenda was reviewed and a motion was made and seconded to approve it as written. Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Everyone introduced himself or herself and was welcomed and thanked by Bishop Ricken for their participation in the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

OPENING COMMENTS:

Bishop Ricken said he is doing many Confirmations throughout the diocese and he has noticed that the letters he is receiving from young people are sincere and they seem more prepared than previous years. The young people are taking Confirmation seriously.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW – Human Resources- Jen Buechel

Jen Buechel handed out her presentation on the Human Resources Department. Some of the highlights of her remarks include:

- The department is lean, only 4.25 employees. They provide compassionate service to employees. They take employee concerns and issues seriously and try to respond with a servant's heart. They integrate respect and collaboration when working with employees.
- The Diocese of Green Bay spends \$9 million annually for health care for its employees. Since July 2006, we have only seen a 14% increase in the cost of our health care plan.

This is far less than most companies and one of the primary reasons for the minimal increase is our strong partnership with our Catholic healthcare providers in our preferred networks. A health and wellness program, Humana Vitality, was just introduced to our employees. The hope is that it will motivate employees to focus on their health and move towards a healthy lifestyle.

- Worker's Compensation- We have a very high mod rate due to slips, trips and falls, and two high dollar claims that occurred several years ago. We are working closely with Catholic Mutual Insurance to drive down costs. Safety committees have been established at the top 20 employers in the diocese. This includes employers such as TCCES, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Manitowoc, St. John Parish in Little Chute.

There was a long discussion on our high mod rate. Several Diocesan Pastoral Council members shared ideas on how they reduced mod rates at their companies, suggested safety practices to implement or services insurance companies could be providing, etc.

DISCUSSION OF PROLOGUE AND CHAPTER 1 OF *THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL*

Bishop Ricken led a discussion on the book *The Joy of the Gospel* by Pope Francis. The members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council offered good input and comments. Bishop Ricken reminded the group that our mission is to make disciples of all people. We need to reach out and save souls. Only 28% of all Catholics go to Mass. 54% of the 28% cannot express or communicate their relationship with God. They do not have either the language or ability to discuss it. We need to change this through the New Evangelization.

At the next meeting, please be prepared to discuss the rest of Chapter 1 and 2.

DISCIPLES ON THE WAY: AN INVITATION- BISHOP RICKEN

Bishop Ricken passed out a booklet to the members that he wrote called, *Disciples on the Way*.

It is an invitation to Priests, Deacons, Religious, Pastoral Leaders, and to all the Faithful to join him over the next 6 years on or in a Missionary Journey into the New Evangelization for the Diocese of Green Bay. Bishop Ricken is inviting everyone to a journey; a journey of deepening our prayer life, of learning to be better disciples ourselves and of making disciples of others for the sake of the Kingdom of God. We are now on the way of the New Evangelization, learning from Our Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Church what it means to be a disciple. It is a six-year journey of prayer, preaching, teaching and growing in faith, that will help us not necessarily to do more, but to be more; to be more like Jesus in all aspects of our lives, work and ministries.

The diocesan journey is divided into three emphases over the coming six years:

- *FORMATION IN PRAYER AND HOLINESS (2014 - 16)*
- *FORMATION IN DISCIPLESHIP (2016 – 18)*
- *FORMATION IN MISSION (2018 - 20)*

The first two years, will be called “Formation in Prayer and Holiness.” I want us all to focus very clearly on the call to renew our prayer lives by establishing and deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ and His Holy Church. This will mean spending more time as individuals and as families coming to love the Sunday Mass, which is the heart of our life as Catholic Christians. It will also mean praying for anyone among our families, our friends and our parishioners who have drifted away from the regular practice of the Catholic faith, and praying for their return to regular nourishment at the table of God's Word and the table of the Eucharist.

PHASE II: FORMATION IN DISCIPLESHIP

The second phase is called, Formation in Discipleship. Much of the focus for our primary efforts will be on those of us who are already coming to Sunday Mass as we work to deepen our prayer lives and learn how to ask others to come to Church with us. This will also mean inviting others to ask Jesus into their lives in a much deeper way. We will learn how to become more comfortable with spreading the Good News to others including our families and friends. We will especially focus on those who may have drifted away from the regular practice of the Catholic faith.

PHASE III: FORMATION IN MISSION

The third phase is called, Formation in Mission. During this phase, we will strive to grow in our call to be missionaries. We will assist all those who have increased and ramped up their level of discipleship to reach out further beyond the boundaries to people they may not be familiar with. We will find ways to witness and share the Good News of the Holy Gospel; especially by engaging more actively in the corporal and spiritual Works of Mercy.

As the Church, we reach out in love and in the love of Jesus to those who have less than we do, not just with material goods, but also with spiritual goods by introducing them to Christ. I'm asking you to help them to come to a more prayerful life, personally and as families, and, God willing, as active members in the Church.

Disciples on the WAY is all about winning souls for Jesus Christ and being an instrument in his work of salvation for our world today.

REVIEW OF POLICY PERTAINING TO THE SALE OR RAFFLE OF ALCOHOL OR FIREARMS- Tammy Basten

Tammy Basten presented a new policy that is aimed at reducing the sale or raffle of *large amounts of alcohol*, and firearms. A good example is a wheelbarrow full of hard liquor that is sold or raffled at a parish fundraiser. It is also aimed at reducing the Diocese's liability risk when a firearm is sold or raffled off at a fundraiser.

There was a discussion and good feedback from the Diocesan Pastoral Council members on the policy. They would like to add clarification on whether beer tents are included in the policy and whether a picture of a gun that is to be sold would be permitted. The council members understood the need for the policy, and they were primarily interested in ensuring clarification of the policy. As a result, Tammy will review the wording to ensure clarity and will present the revised policy at an upcoming meeting.

BISHOP'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND PRAYER

Bishop Ricken thanked the Diocesan Pastoral Council for their participation in the discussions and their input. A member asked about the different roles priests have such as administrator or pastor. Bishop Ricken said that we are struggling with the number of priests. We have 2 parishes without priests and we will not be over the worst of our struggle until 2017. Our pastoral leaders are doing excellent work. They have a lot of pressure and have complex, difficult jobs. Parishes need to be patient.

The meeting closed with a final prayer and blessing.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Pat VonHaden
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING:

- Saturday, October 11, 2014 in St. Francis Xavier Conference Room, Chancery