

Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes January 31, 2015

Attendees: Bishop David Ricken, Very Rev. Dan Felton, William Graf, Cindy Massey, Deborah Schmidt, Debbie Griem, Steve Vanden Heuvel, Pat Kosuth, Terry Olivas, Michael Witte, Elizabeth Kostichka, Sr. Donna Koch, OSF, Michael Donart, John Reilly, Patrick Hart and Pat VonHaden- recording secretary.

Also attending: Tammy Basten, Dr. Joe Bound, Phil Lawson

Absent/Excused: Stuart Gruszynski, Judi Gosenheimer, Jan Clark, Deacon Chuck Schumacher, Deacon Lincoln Wood, Sr. Natalie Binversie, OSF, Very Rev. Jim Baraniak, O.Praem, Rev. Patrick Gawrylewski, OFM, Julie Birr, Deacon Randy Haack.

Call to Order:

Bishop Ricken opened with the meeting at 9:00 A.M. with Morning Prayer, Divine Liturgy. The mission statement was read.

Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2014 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed and a motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda 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.

Bishop Ricken- opening comments:

Bishop Ricken explained the transition from Deacon Tim Reilly to Very Rev. Dan Felton as the Vicar-General and new Moderator of the Curia.

Department update: Dr. Joe Bound, Education.

The last time he attended the DPC meeting, Dr. Joe Bound said the Board of Education structure would change. At this meeting, Dr. Joe Bound gave an update on the new structure. A suggestion had come from Bishop Ricken to add advisory councils to the board, which would focus on specific ministries. Dr. Joe Bound worked with his staff; they formed 3 councils- school, religious education, and youth ministry. An additional member was added to the Department of Education as assistant superintendent, Sr Kay Klackner, OSF. Dr. Joe Bound reviewed the reorganization of the Department of Education to better facilitate the administrative needs of the schools, religious education and youth ministry.

Dr. Joe Bound was asked to give an update on Common Core. We are taking our old standards and updating them. Dr. Joe provided background and explained how they are handling textbooks that are marked common core. Most importantly, they continue to focus on integrating faith and Catholic theory into the classrooms. He reminded the council that all teachers attend the faith certification program, which consists of 6 courses, 10 hours of classroom training on how to integrate Catholic perspective.

Discussion of Evangelii Gaudium

There was a long discussion on Chapter 2 of Pope Francis' book, *Joy of the Gospel*.

Pastoral Plan Implementation Update: Very Rev. Dan Felton

Bishop Ricken briefly mentioned the upcoming Synod on the Family and the preparations that are going into the event. He said that Pope Francis is not afraid of confrontation. He brings to the forefront issues that he has worked on throughout his life. He puts them on the table and wants people to discuss them.

Father Dan Felton gave an update on the status of the Pastoral Plan Implementation. He said that one of the objectives of the Pastoral Letter was to help parishes grow pastorally and move from a reactive to a planning mode. That we are in year 4 of its implementation and we are wondering if the plan is now being met with fatigue. Has it lost its sense of direction? Currently we are focusing on Teach my People to Pray. Is this taking precedence? Fr. Dan Felton and Bishop Ricken received good feedback from several members of the council. The consensus was that people in the parishes are welcoming Teach My People to Pray. One person said, "It has "caught hold and enlivened us". There was also good feedback on Holy Hours. . Bishop Ricken said that Year 2 would be focused on family prayer, consecration to the Sacred Heart and making the connection between the family home and the Church.

Men's Ministry - Phil Lawson

Phil Lawson spoke about a Men's Conference that is being planned for March 5, 2016. The idea for the conference came out of discussions that Bishop Ricken had with various ministries about ways to teach men how to pray with their families. The Diocese, Norbertine Center for Spirituality, and Esto Vir are collaborating and jointly sponsoring the event. In addition, 14 other men's ministry organizations are also participating. The focus of the conference will be discipleship. Cardinal Timothy Dolan will be the keynote speaker. The objective is to get all of the men in the diocese to attend - young, old, and middle age. We want pastors to be aware of this event and to attend so they will be prepared for whatever ideas men who participate in the

Synod on the Family-

Recently the Vatican asked all parishes to complete another survey before the next Synod. This survey is electronic and is open to all Catholics for their input. We are encouraging people in the parishes to complete it. The answers will be compiled, and sent back to the USCCB. The link to the survey is available. Details about the survey were discussed and members of the council were encouraged to complete it.

Bishop Ricken shared the news that a decree that will be coming out soon about a plenary indulgence that will be available for the faithful during the Year of Consecrated Life. In order to make the indulgence available for more parishioners throughout the diocese, Bishop Ricken increased the number of locations where the special prayers could be said.

Bishop Ricken also asked the DPC about replacing Sr. Ann Rehrauer's old position in the Worship Department. The position was a significant resource for parishes and priests who had questions about the liturgy. When Sr. Ann left the position, no qualified replacement was found so the role was left unfilled. Based on feedback that Bishop has been receiving, it appears that a candidate for the position needs to be found. Bishop Ricken asked for a motion to pursue replacement of the Worship director position. Motion was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bishop's Closing Comments and Prayer.

Bishop Ricken thanked the members of the council for their time. Bishop Ricken and Fr. Dan Felton are identifying ways to use the DPC in more of a consultative role prior to changes being made or events being rolled out. At the next meeting, Bishop Ricken will lead a discussion on this. There was a brief discussion on how this might occur, most notably, through an article in the Compass identifying who the members of the DPC are and what their role is in the diocese. Encourage parishioners to reach out to these council members to share their thoughts and ideas so the council members may better represent them at the meetings with the Bishop.

Adjournment:

Bishop Ricken closed with prayer at 11:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pat VonHaden