

**DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2013**

Members Present: Bishop David Ricken, Deacon Timothy Reilly.

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

Appointed Representatives: Terry Olivas (DCCW Rep.), Deacon Randy Haak (Kaukauna), Deacon Charles Schumacher (Peshtigo), Sister Donna Koch, OSF (Green Bay), and Reverend Patrick Gawrylewski, OFM.

Members Absent/Excused: Sister Mariadele Jacobs, OSF (Manitowoc), Bishop Robert Morneau, Father John Doerfler, Terry Burr (VII), Abbot Gary J. Neville, O. Praem (DePere), Lincoln Wood (Clintonville), Patrick Hart (IV), James Lenk (V), Chong Ly (Kimberly).

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 by all.

MINUTES: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2012 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced himself or herself and was welcomed and thanked by Bishop Ricken for their participation in this important committee.

OPENING COMMENTS: Bishop Ricken said that he was honored to be asked by the Bishops of the United States Catholic Council of Bishops to chair the committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. He is fully aware that people are somewhat confused as to what the term New Evangelization means. He shared that Pope Benedict is in the process of writing an exhortation on the New Evangelization, which will be released within the next few months. Pope Benedict's intent is to re-propose the Gospels to cultures that are losing the faith, most especially western cultures.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW – New Evangelization Department: Julianne Donlon-Stanz, Director of the New Evangelization Department, gave a presentation on “The New Evangelization.” Julianne shared her vision of what the New Evangelization is, what it means and how it can be concretely expressed and shared within the Diocese (see attachment).

Bishop Ricken asked for a motion to continue forward with the New Evangelization program. Motion made and seconded. Motion carried.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL (DPC) RESOURCE BOOKLET – Deacon Tim reviewed a DPC resource booklet and provided the committee with an overview of the Vicariate system, how Vicariates are geographically laid-out, reviewed the statutes and structure for the

Diocesan Pastoral Council and other councils within the Diocese. One of the primary purposes of these councils is to provide feedback and consultation to the Bishop of the Diocese.

HISPANIC MINISTRY PLAN – Mark Mogilka and Carlos Hernandez presented a draft of their plan for ministry to the Hispanic Catholic population of the Diocese of Green Bay. This population continues to grow in our Diocese and we are developing ways to meet the unique needs of this population. This includes bilingual Priests, more Hispanic Masses, and Catholic resources written in Spanish. Some interesting facts that Mark Mogilka and Carlos Hernandez shared were 68% of all Hispanics are Catholics, Evangelicals are aggressively welcoming Hispanics into their churches, and the reason the Catholic population in the United States is flat, and not decreasing, is due to the influx of Hispanics into the U.S. The best way for Parishes in our Diocese to welcome Hispanics is to have a Lay Ministry program for Hispanics and to have Mass in Spanish. Carlos discussed the need for new immigrants to learn the language so they can integrate more fully into the community. Mark and Carlos asked for feedback and input from the committee, and explained the document is a draft, a work in progress.

Bishop Ricken asked the committee for a motion to continue to move the Hispanic Ministry Program forward. A motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

REPORT ON PASTORAL LETTER IMPLEMENTATION: Mark Mogilka provided an update on parishes' implementation of Bishop Ricken's Pastoral Letter. We are in the second year of implementation, and, overall, parishes are doing well. Parishes were asked to submit a report on their progress and 75% of the parishes responded. 62% are focused on Evangelization followed by youth/young adult/family, then education and stewardship. Parishes are contacting Stewardship and Pastoral Care (S& PC) to ask for resource help. One of the ways S&PC is assisting is by sharing best ideas on the website. Mark Mogilka also reviewed upcoming conferences and seminars that are focused on the issues and direction in the Pastoral letter.

Bishop Ricken wants parishes to embrace the direction he gave in his Pastoral letter. It is his staff (Crozier), pointing the right way, the direction for parishes to move.

MASS ATTENDANCE COUNTS: The committee reviewed a report showing Mass attendance counts from 1991 to 2012. The report shows a steady decline, an average of 3% per year over the past 20 years. Bishop Ricken said these are sobering statistics. Older parishioners are dying off, secularization is increasing, and the culture is changing. Bishop Ricken asked the committee for input and dialogue which led to a long discussion why people are not attending Mass. Some reasons include secularization, families are torn- society no longer respects Sunday morning church, the need for young Priests who attract young people to Mass, people who attend Mass feel a sense of guilt due to living together, divorce, etc. Some are waiting to get 'holy' before they go back to Church.

Bishop Ricken stressed the need for us to change this trend, to reverse the decline in Mass attendance. We need to decide to change and to contribute to a culture of life.

INCREASING OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS- CATHEDRAL CORPORATION: Mark Mogilka reviewed an offertory collection program by Cathedral Corporation that some of our Parishes are using with good success. Statistics show a significant increase in the gifts

parishioners are giving to their parish because of the program. A group from the Diocese met with Cathedral Corporation. An outcome of the meeting is that the Diocese sponsoring some lunch and learn sessions for parishes. These sessions are an option for parishes, not a mandate.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat VonHaden
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: May 11, 2013