

Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting April 18, 2015

Attendees: Jan Clark, Deacon Chuck Schumacher, Deacon Randy Haak, Terry Olivas, Bishop David Ricken, Very Rev. Dan Felton, Very Rev. James Baraniak, O. Praem, Julie Birr, Deacon Chuck Schumacher, Deb Schmidt, Debbie Griem, John Reilly, Pat Hart, Michael Donart, Mike Witte, Pat Kosuth, Rev. Patrick Gawrylewski, OFM.

Excused: Steve Vanden Heuvel, Sr. Natalie Binversie, OSF, Sr. Donna Koch, OSF, and Elizabeth Kostichka.

Also attending: Tammy Basten, Chancellor, Pat VonHaden, recording secretary

Liturgy of the Hours – Bishop Ricken opened with prayer

Reading of the Mission Statement- the council read the mission statement together

Approval of Minutes from January 31, 2015. Bishop Ricken asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written. A motion was made to approve the minutes, and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Introductions- the council members introduced themselves

Review of Agenda: Bishop Ricken asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made to approve the minutes, and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Opening Comments:

Fr. Dan Felton explained that he and Deacon Tim Reilly are in the process of transitioning roles. As of July 1, 2015, Fr. Dan becomes assumes Deacon Tim Reilly's role as Director of Administration. This is in addition to his current role as Vicar-General and Moderator of the Curia. Bishop Ricken said that he is pleased with the transition so far. He is grateful to both Deacon Tim Reilly and to Fr. Dan Felton for their hard work and dedication to making the transition a success.

Bishop Ricken commented about the *Disciples on the Way* program. He said it is progressing well. In 2018, we will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese. We will have events leading up to it. Parishes have implemented monthly Holy Hours. Near the end of this year, we will invite all Catholics in our diocese to dedicate their family to the Holy Family. Bishop Ricken also discussed Pope Francis and the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

International priests continue to fill the gaps due to the priest shortage in the United States. One of the requirements for selecting international clergy is that we must know them well or they must come highly recommended from someone we know well. We try to find priests with good English skills. We are working closely with the government immigration program to get the priests here. By 2017, we will be up to 4 or 5 ordinations per year which will help our priest shortage.

Department Update: Chancellor, Tammy Basten-

Tammy provided an overview of her department and its function within the diocese. The Department of Canonical Services coordinates all aspects of diocesan services that are concerned with the application and practice of canon law throughout the Diocese of Green Bay. This department offers canonical counsel to the Bishop, Diocesan Departments, Parishes, Institutions, and the Catholic Faithful of the diocese.

The Department of Canonical Services tracks and maintains documents. Everything is handled behind the scenes. We gather statistics and use it to complete the Wisconsin Pastoral Handbook and Official Catholic Directory.

Tammy Basten is earning a certificate in Canon Law and she is also studying for a Masters in Theological Studies at St. Norbert College. She said that the classes she is taking have been directly applicable to her daily work.

She also oversees archives and the worship area. We have 3 employees in Archives. They have a classification system to record data and documents. Bishop Ricken said that ours is the best archives in any diocese that he has worked at. Clare Sturm is in the Worship Department and she is responsible for the Chrism Mass, St. Joseph Chapel and assisting and supporting parishes in their liturgical needs.

Bishop Ricken said that soon we would have two priests who have completed their studies in Canon Law, Fr. Brian Belongia, and Fr. Girotti. Fr. Brian will be working in the Marriage Tribunal, Fr. Girotti in Canonical Services. We are working on getting someone to help with Liturgy. Fr. James Baraniak, O. Praem, recommended that we use Fr. Andy Ciferni, O. Praem, as a resource. He is a nationally recognized Liturgist and he is open to helping the Diocese.

Discussion of Prologue and Chapter 3 of Evangelii Gaudium-

Fr. Dan Felton led the discussion. Some highlights of the discussion include:

- We are called to be disciples of the Lord. We discussed the definition of discipleship, and how best to help the poor.
- We need to reflect Jesus in our daily life and actions. Our lives should reflect our relationship with Jesus.
- Bishop Ricken said our 6-year journey is to pray for ourselves and others, become disciples, and then reach out as missionary disciples.
- Fr. Patrick Gawrylewski, OFM, said that we need to have a change in perspective. We need to reach out and learn how to evangelize; it is a Christian practice.
- Pope Francis says always lead with mercy, love and tenderness.

Discussion of Synod on the Family Survey-

Fr. Dan Felton shared a handout of the results of the Vatican Family Survey. He said only 25 people in our diocese completed the survey. It was not user friendly, and was difficult to get through. The diocese made a decision not to change or modify the survey document because it was Rome's tool. It took 3 people, 3 full days to collate the information that was collected from our diocese.

Review of Pastoral Plan Implementation and Teach My People to Pray-

Fr. Dan reviewed a 2-page list of all of the activities and events that are coming up related to *Disciples on the Way*. This includes:

- We will continue to teach about personal prayer, and will focus on prayer in the household and in the family.
- In May, Bishop Ricken will be release a meditation on prayer and the family.
- The Pope will be releasing his encyclical on the environment.
- We will focus on the Jubilee Year.
- 18 teams will be going out throughout the diocese to explained the language of jubilee, consecration and dedication. Prayer and families will be emphasized.

- We will have an event at Camp Tekakwitha in conjunction with the World Family gathering in Philadelphia.
- Bishop Ricken will complete 3 more Reflection Days of Prayer.
- A huge event will be a household dedications. We will send a picture of the Holy Family to each household and will encourage everyone to dedicate their household. We want to encourage families to pray together and remind them to come to Mass. The home family connects to the Church family.
- Divine Mercy Sunday will have special emphasis.

John Reilly gave positive feedback on the events coming up and how it relates to the parishes.

Review of Mass Attendance-

Bishop Ricken stated that Mass attendance has been going down for the past 18 years. He and Fr. Dan Felton reviewed some of the reasons why this has occurred. Bishop Ricken said we need a welcoming environment, prayerful presiders, good music, and good preaching. Our priests know that their preaching needs to improve. Bishop Ricken then asked the DPC for their counsel. How can we turn this trend around? Many on the council gave their feedback that included Sunday night liturgies, social media, focus on young families, and young teen Mass.

Review and Purpose of the Diocesan Pastoral Council-

Fr. Dan Felton shared with the DPC how important their feedback is. It helps the Bishop and diocese to know what we should do. Fr. Dan said, "We can provide you with information on what a DPC does, but you are the boots on the ground, you need to talk to people in your parishes and vicariates to tell them about yourself". Bishop Ricken thanked everyone for his or her attendance today. He asked, "If you hear things that are incorrect, please lovingly correct people if it is inaccurate. Also please share with the parish the things that you are learning here."

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

omitted,

 Recording Secretary