



**Diocese of Green Bay**  
**DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 7, 2017**

**Attendees:** Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverend Daniel Felton, Pat Kosuth, Dottie Borowski, Jeff Taylor, Michael Witte, John Folk, Maurine Overesch, Deborah Schmidt, Jan Clark, Steve Parent, William Graf, Deacon Chuck Schumacher, Sister Natalie Binversie, Elizabeth Kostichka, Pat Ratajczak, Patrick Hart, Cindy Massey, Deacon Randy Haak and Very Reverend James Baraniak, O. Praem.

**Excused/Absent:** Betty Hove, Paula Freimuth, and Judi Gosenheimer

**Opening Activities**

- Meeting opened at 8:40 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 October 29, 2016 as written. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded and approved unanimously.
- Introductions done individually.

**Opening Comments**

Bishop Ricken went over agenda. Bishop thanked everyone for coming on such a cold day.

**Department Report—Fr. John Girotti**

Fr. John Girotti is the Vicar of Canonical Services for the diocese. Bishop needs a body to bounce ideas off and seek information, and that is the Diocesan Pastoral Council. The DPC discusses, investigates and recommends all that pertains to pastoral work. The body assists the Bishop in the ministry of the church. The DPC is a diverse group that includes lay persons from each vicariate and priests.

Fr. Dan—Council members listen to parishioners and are the vehicle to share information with the pastors and pastoral leaders. Parish Pages communicates information to priests, and we can add council members to also receive Parish Pages.

Bishop—Primary responsibility is to be a listening agent to me and communicate back to me.

**Update on Discipleship Year I and Year II—Fr. Felton**

Bishop—We had Discipleship I Training Seminar for the curia, priests, and pastoral leaders. We are taking the time with the parish leadership before taking this to the parishes. Part of the follow-up has been the Alpha Small Groups. Form the leadership first to give them a common understanding and then move outward.

Fr. Dan—Went over mission and vision statement. This has become the roots within our diocese. From that, branches will begin to grow along with the formation of discipleship. Fr. Dan went over the timeline for Discipleship I, II and Alpha Small Groups. Form the leadership and the leadership will bring

to the parishes. There is an intention for all tiers to go through a similar training. Discipleship II will take place after a tier has gone through Discipleship I and Alpha Small Groups. There will be 3 tiers.

- Tier 1: curia, pastoral leaders, and priests
- Tier 2: deacons, principals, parish staff, parish leadership, religious education administration, and affiliated groups
- Tier 3: parishioners, catechists and teachers

Bishop—This is an ongoing process for renewal. This will take time, but we will do it as a diocese as one body. Keep growing as a parish and diocese as we: discover Jesus, follow Jesus, worship Jesus and share Jesus. The seminar offers the same language. Reconnect individuals with the church. The essence of the church is evangelization. Year 2020 is when we are looking to launch new evangelization. With the parish boundaries, the parish has a mission field. Reach out to your neighbors. Religious life is discipleship. Match church leadership within each parish and discuss what you can do to enhance discipleship. There is an opportunity to work together.

#### **Discussion of Parish Survey—Fr. Dan Felton**

The St. Norbert College Strategic Research Institute helped with the parish survey. We had more than a 50% response back. With the new mission and vision, there is an opportunity to look at how the curia is organized in connection to the parishes. For today's discussion, we will look at the raw data and we want feedback on those items where more information would be beneficial. Several councils will be looking at the survey results and there will also be a discussion with the priests and pastoral leaders.

#### **Closing Comments—Bishop Ricken**

We have 57 Catholic Schools within the diocese and the Meitler group is doing a Catholic School Study. We will have information coming out from that study. We are studying schools because we want to know more. We need to give more direct attention to the Catholic schools. We will continue to have conversations. We want to better position them for the future. We need to connect the Catholic schools with the parents and Sunday Mass. Want vibrant parishes, schools and the diocese. Reading a book: *The One Thing* by Gary Keller. Doing one thing that will make other stuff not as important or not necessary. What is the one thing that the curia can do to make something less important or not important. We are looking at streamlining the curia to better serve the parishes.

#### **Q & A**

Any studies done for how many continue with their faith after Catholic schooling?

Bishop—60% of priests have been through Catholic schools. Catholic Schools and high-powered Catechesis need to work together. Both are schools of discipleship. We are looking for long-term viable solutions. With the Meitler study, will look at how we tie the school to the parish.

Bishop led prayer

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Rogne  
Recording Secretary