



Diocese of Green Bay
PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 3, 2022

Attendees: Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverends John Girotti, Bill O'Brien and Luke Ferris, Reverends Joseph Dorner, Kennedy Gaspar, Bill Hoffman, Adam Bradley, James Lucas, Doug LeCaptain, Francis Nusi, Larry Seidl, Matthew Rappl, Carl Schmitt, James Baraniak, O. Praem. and Barry Metzentine
N/A: Reverend Daniel Schuster

Opening Activities

- Meeting opened at 10:00 a.m.
- Bishop Ricken led the opening prayer
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve and adopt the meeting minutes of the September 29, 2022, meeting as written. Motion approved unanimously.
- Mission statement was recited by Council members.

Bishop Opening Comments

Thank you for the great job that you have been and are doing for the one by One campaign. Please preach on vocations November 5 & 6, Fr. Mark sent out resources for this. Missionary Discipleship, with Eucharistic Revival, we have an opportunity to train people as missionary disciples who are helping in your parish. Missionary discipleship helps people be more engaged and share their excitement about the parish. St. Thomas More Parish had a Eucharistic Procession last night and the place was packed. Parishioners got the word out, shared pamphlets with the neighborhood. Go out two by two. The answer to the priest shortage is more holy priests. Service the people with Mass and the sacraments as often as you can. Shepherd the people. There is a wonderful document, The pastoral conversion of the Parish community in the service of the evangelizing mission of the Church. I sent it back a year ago. In February, we will have the Presbyteral Council, Regional Vicars, and the Executive Mission Team meeting for a long day to look over the document. Read that document and pray about it. Work on the goals. Look at what you are doing for missionary discipleship and vocations. We can make missionary discipleship more useful. Get the people to do some of the outreach. Observe and look at what is going on at the parishes around you.

Update on Priests/Report on Priests who are Ill—Fr. Luke Ferris
Fr. Luke gave an update on priests who are ill.

Bishop's Appeal Report/2022 Billing/2023 Goal—Tammy Danz and Josh Diedrich

The Bishop's Appeal 2022 currently has raised \$6,462,443 from 25,877 donors. The Crozier Society members represent 58% of the amount raised for the Bishop's Appeal goal. We have 131 parishes that have exceeded their goal. The refund for those parishes is currently \$394,048. The number of parishes to be invoiced, as of today, is 25 parishes. **A motion was made and seconded to recommend the approval for St. Therese of the Little Flower on behalf of the Diocese of Green Bay, Inc. to invoice no more than 25 parishes that are short of their 2022 Bishop's Appeal goal. These billings will not exceed \$133,316. A motion was made and seconded to approve. The motion was approved unanimously except one no.**

This group discussed whether to raise the Bishop's Appeal goal or keep it the same. A question was raised as to whether the income of the 156 parishes was up or down this past year and whether the increase or decrease of the Bishop's Appeal goal should reflect this. Discussion followed. **A motion was made and seconded that we raise the Bishop's Appeal goal for 2023 to \$5.6M this year and we look at the formula to adjust it to be discussed at the May 2023 Presbyteral Council meeting and for those parishes that have a disproportionate that Catholic Foundation to work with the parishes who have a 10% goal increase. The motion had 6 approved and 4 opposed with Fr. Adam at Mass and not part of the vote.**

Cathedraticum—Paul Kolbach

In fiscal year 2020-2021, we reduced Cathedraticum a little over 5% in response to the pandemic. We maintained it at that level for fiscal year 2021-22. For the current fiscal year, we restored Cathedraticum to the originally approved level for 2020-21. There are certain uncontrollable costs which are paid for by Cathedraticum such as dues for the USCCB, the WCC and the Apostolic Nunciature. Other areas supported by Cathedraticum include the Chancery (Office of the Bishop), the Chancellor, Marriage Tribunal, Safe Environment, and to a certain extent International and unassigned priests. After some discussion, **a motion was made and seconded to increase Cathedraticum by 8% and to review the formula. The motion was approved with 1 opposed and 1 abstention.**

one by One Campaign Update—Josh Diedrich

Josh gave an update on the one by One campaign. We are at \$68M out of the \$70M goal. Block 3 made their goal and Block 4 will make goal. Block 5 will begin in January. We are in very good shape. This campaign offers building relationships with those families.

Discussion about Future of our Parishes and Pastoral Ministry—Barry Metzentine

Bishop—We will send out the Pastoral Conversion document for you to review for the February meeting. We are grateful for the ones who are in the parish, take good care of them. There are opportunities with the Eucharistic Revival.

Barry—Mass attendance trends down overall 30% from 2009-2019. The Pandemic accelerated us forward 5-7 years, we are now 50% down from ten years ago. The answer is about shifting people's minds and hearts. Sacramental life is down. Contributing members continue to decline, we have less people giving more money. RCIA is a tremendous opportunity in our diocese. Operations usually take priority over the mission. We are facility rich and people poor,

majority of our parishes are rural. 132 people is the average of Mass attendance at any given Mass. We are utilizing our facilities, overall, at 29%.

Bishop—The next campaign should not be for money but for souls. Use what we have wisely. We must help the people realize where we are and look at the costs financially and spiritually. Invite people to come to Mass, invite people to get involved with missionary discipleship. Have those people reach out to people in their homes.

Barry—A parish often spends more time on the financials than reaching out to the community. A few recommendations:

- Do heartfelt prayer to Mary and Jesus in parish meetings
- Fully incorporate Bishop Ricken’s “Five Alive”: Holy Mass, Lectio Divina, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, and The Rosary
- Targeted parish reconfiguration. We must be smarter, more intentional and invest in regional resources

Fr. Girotti—All of this is what we are pondering. The idea is between now and February to ponder it and talk about this in February.

Bishop—The way the priests and pastoral leaders responded to the pandemic is phenomenal. We are close to making our one by One goal. We need to focus a new push on growing our churches, growing our parishes, and growing our people at Mass. God is a God of abundance, multiplication, and growth. The next years will be about going on mission, keep reaching out, go two by two. The discussion today is to set the table for the February 23 longer meeting with the Regional Vicars and the Executive Mission Team.

Closing Comments

Bishop—Thank you for all that you do.

Bishop closed with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Duvall

Recording Secretary