



Diocese of Green Bay
PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 31, 2022

Attendees: Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverends Bill O'Brien and Luke Ferris, Reverends Bill Hoffman, Adam Bradley, James Lucas, Doug LeCaptain, Bill Swichtenberg, Carl Schmitt, Daniel Schuster, Larry Seidl, Tom Long, Joel Sember, James Baraniak, O. Praem. and Barry Metzentine
N/A: Very Reverend John Girotti

Opening Activities

- Meeting opened at 10:04 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 February 24, 2022, meeting as written. Motion approved unanimously.
- Mission statement was recited by Council members.

Bishop Opening Comments

Part of your work is to get the word out to the priests. It will take us time, but there will be some change. What needs to be shared with all the priests and how do we best do that. This is an advisory council. There will be push back. Doing what is best for the church. We need to move forward together. When you do something new and change something up, things may get uncomfortable. It is my job to lead.

Fr. Luke gave an update on priests who are ill.

Follow-up on Confirmation Proposal Bishop Ricken, Maximus Cabey and Tania LeFevre Bishop I am going to share with you my reflections on the Confirmation schedule. After the pandemic, everything is the same and everything is different. We need to be very flexible in discerning forward what is the best thing to do. The number of Confirmation candidates have been in a steady decline. We are fewer in number at each celebration. Committing myself to 35 Confirmations around the diocese per year, I would like to do a pastoral visit at least once per month, hoping 8-10 per year. With large celebrations where there are around 80 candidates, I will ask the Abbot or Vicar Forane to help. Providing your counsel to me at the last meeting, I am moving forward to a more regional approach. The pastor and pastoral leader needs to be involved with this. Some parishes are not flexible with dates and will not work with other parishes. I do want to involve the catechists in a webinar to explain where we are moving forward. To help them understand the why behind the what and explain why. Fundamental encounters with Jesus are happening, the letters are more personal. Thank you and thank your catechists for what they are doing, it is working. There is respect of the law and respect of the Holy Spirit. There has been a wonderful growth in the quality of some of the letters. Listen and be appreciative of work going on in the parishes. Gratitude raises the level of abundance. We are about saving souls. Be grateful for the ones we have and pray for filling the spaces. We are heading in the right direction. We need to

work together as one body and one community.

Tania☒ I looked at what were the largest Confirmations and kept them. I looked at churches that could hold larger capacity. Many of these have already been together. This is based on this year's numbers.

Bishop☒ Next year we may need to make some adjustments. There are three parts of the year to my time with Confirmation.

Tania☒ The first parish listed on the document will be the host parish and then who I am anticipating the parishes to go with them. This year, the parish will get the schedule and I will assign a date. We are looking at Saturday afternoon, Sunday afternoon or a Wednesday evening. They will not be during regular Mass. After this meeting, this schedule will go out along with a letter to let them know what we are doing. And then a host letter would go out. By then end of August, the parishes should know how many students they will have, and we can adjust. Maximus will send out an email to the DRE to send us Confirmation student numbers by end of this week. Then next week we will send this out to priests. When this is finalized, we will send out to the priests and to DREs.

Maximus☒ We do office hours, we could invite the pastors, DREs and anyone else who would like to join.

Parish Mission Site Engagement Process and Weekly Mass Counts and Offertory☒ Barry Metzentine

Parish Mission Site Engagement Process

Barry led a discussion with the group on a new process to reach out to 20 parishes who are struggling. We need to be intentional and look at the vitality of a parish. See if we can help and see how we can serve the needs of the community. We looked at specific criteria for choosing the parishes. We have picked 20 parishes. The next step will be to have an intentional conversation with the priest/pastoral leaders. After the initial meeting, then we will meet with parish leadership/staff. The priest/pastoral leader will help determine the one thing that needs to happen at their parish. This 20 is a trial. We will have more parishes that we can go to. These discussions will also help with the Priest Personnel Board next year.

Bishop☒ We want to have a conversation with these parishes and celebrate what a parish has. Let us journey together and Barry has the principles to help.

Barry☒ This can be healing. People need to have a space to say what they need to say and then be guided by the Holy Spirit. Most of the parishes in the list of 20 are smaller. The maximum is 350 families. In suburban areas, we are working with Neenah and Menasha to look at collaboration within those parish communities. We need to hear what people are saying before we move forward.

Bishop☒ When you take the presence of the Eucharist away from the community, there is a decrease of morale. People deserve to have Christ in their community as much as they possibly can. We must recommunicate and reeducate in a nice way. We can accompany them and explain this to them. Churches are vital to the rural communities. The people run the parish and priests travel for mission churches.

Barry☒ We address the fear up front. We talk with the priest/pastoral leader to get what is the best process.

Weekly Mass Counts and Offertory

Barry Metzentine went over Weekly Mass Counts and Offertory. We started collecting weekly mass counts and offertory with the pandemic. The numbers help Bishop and others within the curia. Parishes are asking how long they need to continue to do this.

I am putting out two proposals: continue weekly, or switch to monthly.

Bishop☒ I think the data helps with discerning assignments.

The group had a discussion on whether to do weekly or monthly mass counts. Some preferred to stay with weekly since the ushers have a current system in place and others mentioned more flexibility could be helpful. **A motion was made and seconded that we continue weekly mass counts and offertory, and a communication will be sent to parishes. 10 yes, 1 opposed, 1 abstain**

Update on the Synod☒ Bishop Ricken and Tammy Basten

Bishop Ricken and Tammy Basten walked through a summary report with the efforts in the Diocese of Green Bay on the Synod process. The Synod report has been prepared and will be turned in by June 30, 2022.

Bishop☒ We need to take the next steps to communicate the good work.

Tammy☒ The report is done, but it is the continuation to truly listen to people and walk with them. Go beyond the people simply at the table.

Update on the one by One Campaign and Seminarian Collection☒ Josh Diedrich

one by One Campaign

Josh Diedrich said the one by One Campaign is doing very well. Currently, we have raised \$53.4M of the \$70M goal from 7,781 gifts.

Seminarian Collection

Josh Diedrich stated the Seminarian Collection will be paused for one year. A new way forward will be discussed.

Bishop☒ There will still be seminarians who will go out to parishes and speak about their story.

Discussion Regarding Future of the Chrism Mass☒ Bishop Ricken and Dcn. Shaun Johnson

Bishop Ricken and Dcn. Shaun Johnson had a discussion with the council on the future of the Chrism Mass.

Bishop☒ We have a new Director of Worship, Gerard Hall.

Dcn. Shaun☒ At the Chrism Mass, we had 88 respondents to the survey.

Bishop☒ What does the Church see for the purpose of Chrism Mass. I think for the oils and priestly promises. Collaboration with laity is important as well. So, I am leaning toward it to have the purposes for which the church establishes and a small representation of the laity. Maybe we could use vicariate leaders and a few employees. We need something to celebrate the role of ecclesial leaders. Every vocation is important, but not every vocation needs to be celebrated in one Mass. The group offered many different options of laity who could be represented at the Chrism Mass: seminarians, high school systems, health care systems, different ministries from a parish, ecclesiastical movements, Diocesan Pastoral Council, representatives from Spiritus and campus ministry. Religious orders could be another option and let the Vicars help.

Bishop will finalize and explain his decision.

Update on Regional Vicars Bishop Ricken and Fr. Luke Ferris

Fr. Luke We have gone to 8 vicariates rather than 7. We also are going from numbered vicariates to locations. We have split up Vicariate I into two vicariates. For Vicariate I split, we looked at the major roads and parish boundaries. We want to strengthen regional vicars and have them get to each parish every three years. We also want to have regional meetings in the vicariates. We are waiting to announce the regional vicars and eight vicariates in one communication to the parishes. The Regional Vicars are selected by Bishop Ricken.

Bishop Not everything should be centralized here. The purpose is to help be a connecting factor between the parishes and curia and vicariate discernment. Also, to move us to be more organized to provide services instead of one-on-one requests. We need to have a central focus on the goals and mission. We hope to use the vicariate system more over time.

What can be Shared from this Meeting/Discussion on Distribution of Notes Bishop Ricken

This group agreed to have a short recap of decisions and discussions of the Presbyteral Council be sent to the priests and pastoral leaders after each Presbyteral Council meeting.

Bishop closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Duvall
Recording Secretary