



**Diocese of Green Bay**  
**PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 4, 2021**

**Attendees:** Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverends Daniel Felton, John Girotti and Luke Ferris, Reverends Bill Hoffman, Adam Bradley, Tom Long, Bill Swichtenberg, Carl Schmitt, Daniel Schuster, Larry Seidl, Doug LeCaptain, Joel Sember, Timothy Shillcox, O. Praem., Barry Metzentine  
**Excused:** Fr. James Lucas

**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 November 5, 2020 meeting as written. Motion approved unanimously.
- Mission statement was recited by Council members.

**Bishop Opening Comments**

Thank you to all of you how responsive and good you have been to your communities. We have learned so much. You have continued to learn the mission of building schools of discipleship.

**Update on Priests/Report on Priests who are Ill—Fr. Luke Ferris**

Fr. Luke reported on priests who are ill.

Support and Benefits for Priest and Pastoral Leader salaries: Last year when Covid hit, we had no salary increases and no increases in help out. The consideration this year is for a 2.0% increase for priest and pastoral leaders and also an increase with sacramental help out.

**Motion was made and seconded to increase the priest and pastoral leader salary 2.0% for 2021 fiscal year. Motion approved unanimously.**

A recommendation was made to increase Mass help out by \$10.

**A motion was made and seconded to increase the help out by \$10. Motion carried with two abstaining.**

**Data Snapshot of Parish and Diocese State of Affairs—Fr. Dan and Dean Gerondale**

Dean—Year to date total offertory is down 8%. Christmas offertory overall was down 18.6%, week and week after Christmas. The trends in offertory are down July-December, but up 17.2% in January. The 8% offertory represents the entire year and trends in offertory represent a month only number. Current parishes at financial risk, we have 12-15 parishes in high financial risk (approximately 90 days or less of operating cash available). The number of parishes reporting electronic offertory in Gabriel is 32%. Our goal is to reach out to parishes who are not reporting it in Gabriel. My goal is to get 100% in 90 days. Some may be recording error in how they are reporting it in Gabriel. It will be critical to get everyone up before summer. Trends in Mass attendance, we are at 18.3% of parishes at capacity.

Dean—For PPE, 64 entities have not shared with us if they qualify for PPE2, 72 do not qualify and 21 have reported they qualified.

Fr. Dan—We are actively reaching out to parishes to help with this process for PPE2.

Dean—We have a spreadsheet that tracks all of this. I am working on a new measurement with Mass attendance and the four indicators and how that connects to the average contributing amount. We are seeing some Covid fatigue. Mass attendance is a key indicator with contributing units and a forecasting tool to show parishes how they need to do reengagement with parishioners to help with short-term and long-term.

### **Reflections and Dialogue on Planning**—Bishop Ricken

Bishop—I have shared this with the office leaders and curia. As I was looking and studying where we are in this pandemic, we also need signs of hope and direction. I have done this reflection in light of having six years left here. As I look at the next six years, I was looking at what is on the plate for the diocese. The first thing is to guide the diocese through the pandemic and gradually guide parishioners back to Mass. Thank you for guiding your parishes. We need to allow time for healing to move our parishes forward.

**Important and Urgent:** The generation that we are missing is young adults. We already have budgeted and are actively looking for a Young Adult Director. We need someone who is really good at building relationships, discipleship and connecting with the community.

**Important and Pressing:** Fr. Dan and I have been in discussion along with my Roundtable Leadership Team. I have asked Fr. Dan to give 50% of his time to work with parishes and to work with Barry with outreach. Fr. Dan will connect with what the needs are and to discuss and also to have parishes connect with one another. We could multiply the services with parishes helping parishes. Fr. Dan will be helping Fr. Luke and Barry.

**Worship Jesus:** The Bishops Conference will be taking three years to focus on the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Now is the time to move into the Worship Jesus years, we are looking at starting January 2022. Fr. Celestine, Fr. Alvan Amadi and Fr. Schuster have studies in liturgy. Shawn will be reaching out to the three priests to help guide.

#### A. The purposed of the Worship Years:

1. To know and understand the nature of true Worship of Jesus who leads us to the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. To know and to love the Mass as the primary way we Worship God every Sunday.
3. To consistently engage in acts of repentance and conversion and to access the Mercy of God in the Sacrament of Penance.
4. To know and love the Word of God, truly living and present in our midst every time we proclaim and preach from it, study it and meditate on it.
5. To know and love the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

#### B. The Director of Worship Role:

- Hiring Assistant Director of Worship
- Conformity questions with the USCCB plan
- Anticipatory set for the role of the Holy Spirit throughout

C. Possibilities for Planning:

- Emphasize the daily Holy Hour for priests
- Emphasize the weekly adoration for the parishes by the priests, with special emphasis on vocations to the priesthood
- Other emphasis throughout the plan: welcome, preaching and sacred music  
Prepare for a diocesan Eucharistic Congress
- Anticipatory preparation for the Share Jesus Years 2024-2027

*Priest and parish leadership formation:* To decide on delivery systems for the ongoing formation of the priests and pastoral leaders: Congress, Convocation, one on one coaching or in small groups.

- Helping priests and pastoral leaders to build and lead their parish teams using the discipleship and leadership development curriculum already developed
- Help them to help one another spiritually and pastorally
- Help the curia to really service the parishes with coaching and resourcing

***Major Decision Making and Implementation Projects:***

- Formation: Develop a plan for the Diaconate Formation Program and Lay Ecclesial Ministry Leadership based on solid formation in missionary discipleship and leadership.
- Culture: Continuation of culture impact formation in the Curia and expand through discipleship and leadership development to the parishes.

***Important and On-Going:***

*Goal setting:* Checking in on goal achievement and development with the goal teams: Helping move the goals toward more and more, own the goals and to more accomplishment.

- More guidance for vocation goal
- More guidance for missionary discipleship and leadership formation goal

***Major Donor Development Contacts:***

- As the parishes, schools and diocesan offices begin to recover from the pandemic it is very apparent that the needs at every level in our diocese have grown and changed over the last year. In addition to the \$6M already pledged for my part of the one by One Campaign goal of \$15M, another \$9M is needed to meet my portion of the overall goal.
- The restart of the one by One Campaign will begin with parishes that are eager to move forward with the campaign to meet their needs. Additional blocks of parishes will be built out on need and readiness to initiate the campaign.

Bishop—We will have the Worship Jesus and then Share Jesus. We have a lot to do, but this is for the next six years. Our job is to help one another with their vocation.

The group shared feedback about the plan.

**Consultation on reducing St. Stanislaus, Langlade**

Fr. Girotti—Bishop has to hear from the Presbyteral Council before he closes a church. Your recommendation is given to Bishop and this is a consultative role.

Barry—This is a recommendation to close the St. Stanislaus, Langlade worship site. St. Stanislaus, Langlade was a mission worship site. This started 15 years ago with the parish leadership.

Langlade has operated as a seasonal site. We did a parish analysis and two surveys have been done with parishioners. There was unanimous consensus from the parish council members to close one site. There is one vocal voice of potential dissent who feels Langlade is in better shape. The infrastructure would need to be built up in Langlade. The cemetery would remain the ownership of the parish.

Fr. Joel—I hesitate to have a church sold and be used for a different building.

Fr. Girotti—The population is small and can be handled by one worship site. The site is in need of repair.

The bishop heard the council to reduce the St. Stanislaus building to profane but not sordid use.

## **Q & A**

Fr. Dan closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jami Duvall  
Recording Secretary