



Diocese of Green Bay
PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2020

Attendees: Bishop David Ricken, Very Reverends Daniel Felton and Luke Ferris, Monsignor James Dillenburg, Reverends James P. Leary, OFM Cap, Bill Hoffman, Adam Bradley, Tom Long, Bill Swichtenberg, Carl Schmitt, Doug LeCaptain and Timothy Shillcox, O. Praem.

Excused: Reverends Dave Hoffman and Joel Sember

Opening Activities

- Meeting opened at 9:32 a.m.
- Bishop Ricken led the opening prayer.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda with one addition. Would like to have a discussion on the TV Mass. Motion approved unanimously.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve and adopt the meeting minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting as written. Motion approved unanimously.
- Mission statement was recited by Council members.

Bishop Opening Comments

Bishop did check-ins with the group.

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

Fr. Luke reported on priests who are ill.

Feedback on Phase II: Public Mass, Parish Office Activities—PC Members

The members discussed how Phase II is going with their parishes.

Bishop—The important thing is to walk with people and do the best you can. Accompany people. Thank you for all that you are doing.

Update on Campaign – Josh Diedrich

Josh discussed the update on the campaign. We have communicated with the parishes that have completed their campaign, to start receiving their funds. The campaign can continue, but we need to rethink how we do the campaign. We will visit with parishes and discuss where they are at. There will need to be a lot of discussion of what the parish needs are. Each parish has unique needs.

Fr. Dan—The parish may have different needs now from when they started planning.

Bishop—This is an opportunity if we see it that way. One of the main platforms of the campaign is to support parishes. During times like this, people tend to be more generous and not less. Not being afraid, have faith.

Josh—The aspect of what the case looks like will be working together with the parish.

Bishop—The case can be brought to the ground level. We are really striving to become more missionary. The case has to be understandable to the diocese, parish, and parish members. The very thing you are reluctant to do is the very thing that can reposition the parish. These discussions are helpful. Thank you for the feedback.

Josh—The Bishop's Appeal has raised, so far, fairly equal to last year. The April mailing raised more money than last year.

Parish Financial Projections/Stewardship – Dean Gerondale, Josh Diedrich

Dean—The offertory has been impacted at each parish. Overall, parishes are down about 12%. We want to stay ahead of it, so we have parishes sharing data. This helps us to be able to put together some trends. We are using Gabriel as a tool to help us track the trend pre and post Covid. When Covid first hit, we had some offertory decline and some parishes received a big boost. We are gathering the information and being able to share with the parishes. Things are looking fairly good for the schools as we move into the fall.

Fr. Dan—We have been using a collaborative model. We are trying to be interactive and proactive with parishes. Monitoring cash reserves for parishes is important. Once the cash begins to be used up, we will need to be aware of what it looks like a few months out.

Bishop—Behind what we are trying to do, the diocese is only as strong as our most struggling parish. We want to be of service to those who are struggling. Team work is important.

Josh— We want to help give you the tools to be successful in your recovery. We have been working with parishes and providing them resources.

Curia Workforce Adjustments – Bishop Ricken, Fr. Dan Felton, Fr. Luke

Bishop—We are striving to be good stewards for the upcoming fiscal year. We are looking at workforce adjustments and program adjustments at the curia. It will be difficult. You will be receiving a notification.

Fr. Dan—We are monitoring our stewardship abilities, just as parishes. Our two primary funds are Bishop's Appeal and Cathedraticum. We have been working closely with Josh. The recovery of the parishes has a direct impact on Bishop's Appeal and Cathedraticum. We will be making some significant changes to the diocese. It will not compromise moving the mission ahead. We will look at our reengagement after we make the adjustments that we have made.

Barry—We have had 123 parishes go through parish mission planning and 33 are currently going through it or on pause. The parish mission planning is giving them focus and clarity on how they want to reengage with their parish. We will be checking in with parishes to see how they are doing and to be of support. We have new insights and learning to share. We want to listen, accompany and partner with parishes. Parish mission planning is a tool to service parishes. It is helpful to identify needs, provide clarity to goals, and rally staff to help serve the mission.

Bishop—We are beginning to learn how to listen to pastors, parish leaders and parishes. There has been a lot of hard work and a lot of discernment that has gone into this.

Sunday Television Mass—Bishop Ricken

Bishop—We currently do not have the funding for the TV Mass, but people are asking for the TV Mass to continue. This is allowing us to reach out to the marginalized and those people that cannot get out to Mass. We have had 35,000-45,000 households viewing on average with the recent TV Masses. This could be a way to evangelize and a way to connect people in their mission field to the TV Mass. This could be a significant opportunity. We have discernment to do. The group discussed the possibility of going forward with Sunday Television Mass. The group discussed the various audiences that could benefit from the TV Mass.

Q & A

There was a question regarding weddings for August and September.

Fr. Dan—We won't know the date for the next phase. There may be a resurgence that will have an impact. There also could be hotspots that will have different safety protocol depending on the circumstances.

Bishop—Thank you for your time today. We would like to close with the Prayer to St. Joseph.

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jami Duvall".

Jami Duvall
Recording Secretary