

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2013

Members Present: Bishop David Ricken, Deacon Timothy Reilly.

Vicariate Representatives: Pat Kosuth (I), Stuart Gruszynski (I), Rebecca Nash (II), Steve Vanden Heuvel (III), John Reilly (IV), Patrick Hart (IV), James Lenk (V), Deborah Schmidt (V), Terrance Burr (VII), Cindy Massey (VII).

Appointed Representatives: Deacon Charles Schumacher, Chong Ly.

Members and Representatives Absent/Excused: Bishop Robert Morneau, Sister Mariadele Jacobs, OSF (Manitowoc), Sister Donna Koch, OSF (Green Bay), Rt. Reverend Gary Neville, O Praem. (De Pere), Reverend Patrick Gawrylewski, OFM (Pulaski), Terry Olivas, Deacon Randall Haak, Lincoln Wood, Julie Birr (II), Judi Gosenheimer (III), Jan Clark (VI), and Michael Donart (VI).

CALL TO ORDER: Bishop Ricken called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. and led Morning Prayer. The Mission Statement was read by all.

MINUTES: One correction was suggested for the minutes of February 2, 2013. Deborah Schmidt was listed as in attendance but was absent. A motion was made and seconded to approve with corrected attendance. Motion was passed.

AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves. All members were welcomed and thanked by Bishop Ricken for their participation in this important committee.

OPENING COMMENTS: No additional comments were made.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Communications Director, Justine Lodi: A handout was provided outlining the operations and staff of the diocesan communications department. The department exists to assist the Bishop, provide development for technology and infrastructure and advance the mission of the diocese. The department consists of three areas: Communications, The Compass and Information Technology.

Communications – Responds to media and communication requests, supports diocesan communication efforts, provides a positive Catholic presence on the Web, social media and develops new communication resources.

The Compass – Reports and disseminates Catholic news, serves to evangelize and provide lifelong faith formation, online source of news and information and creates revenue for operating costs through advertising sales and subscription. An electronic version or an application for smart phones and tablets was discussed which would enable as many homes or individuals as possible to access The Compass.

Information Technology (IT) – provides support for immediate computer and network needs, cost effective solutions for IT hardware, software and network improvements, and provides support and training when new technologies are implemented.

LIVING JUSTICE SOCIETY: Catherine Orr, Living Justice Director, and Eric Weydt, Catholic Social Justice Coordinator – This department was previously known as Social Concerns. In 2011, the restructuring process and implementation of the Pastoral letter resulted in a new department, now called the Department of Living Justice. The department oversees the areas of Catholic Social Justice (Eric Weydt), Family and Married Life (Peg Vande Hey) and Dignity of Human Life (Celia McKee).

Eric explained the formation of the Living Justice Society and the connection with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The CCHD is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence and supports lasting change. The Living Justice Society was formed as an alternative to previous community organizations to which individual parishes belonged. The Living Justice Society will oversee chapters that create community and economic development as well as social justice projects with the assistance of CCHD grant opportunities.

At this time, many parishes do not have a social concerns committee. Eric will work with parishes to create committees and develop chapters that qualify for CCHD grant monies.

GROWING AN ENGAGED CHURCH: Appleton Parishes, Reverend Denis Ryan and Dr. Colleen Sargent-Day – All 8 parishes in Appleton are participating in a program that helps to engage parishioners using the books “*Growing an Engaged Church*” and “*Living Your Strengths*”. Based on several areas: Expectations of Membership, Stewardship Development, Spiritual Faith Life, Community Building, Welcoming and Fellowship, Measurement (ME25 tool) and Strengths Assessment, parishes experience more participation, satisfaction, volunteerism and increased giving from members.

The Strengths Finder[®] which allows people to work better together, releases positive energy, reduces conflict and creates more satisfaction was used to identify the top 5 strengths of all parish staff as well as 60 parishioners at St. Bernard. A six week study was implemented to augment the program. The results have allowed staff to work better together, councils are focused on achieving parish goals, and the staff has identified strengths in parishioners and aligned tasks to compliment these strengths.

A tool of 25 questions (ME25) measures engagement and spiritual health. Examples: What do I get? Are my spiritual needs met? Do I get to do what I do best? These questions drive other factors in faith community life including attendance and financial commitment. Additional questions measure welcoming and fellowship. Examples: Have I received praise from someone in my parish? Do leaders in the parish care about me?


Benefits of developing a strengths based community have been a positive environment, finding the right fit for people, knowing what makes others tick, reduced conflict, appreciation of diversity, self-knowledge and disciples of stewardship and talent.

CLOSING COMMENTS: Bishop Ricken shared a change in administration at the diocese. Fr. John Doerfler will be teaching part time at the Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. He will remain as Director of Canonical Services, but Tammy Basten, currently Director of Facilities and Properties, will become the new Chancellor. In canon law, the chancellor serves as the main archivist and notary of the diocese. Tammy will oversee the archives and assist with diocesan corporations.

Dcn. Tim noted that there has not been an increase of diocesan employees with the current department and staffing changes. All current positions and salaries have been budgeted for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Bass
Substitute Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: October 5, 2013