

CCBC Pastoral Council Minutes

April 13, 2021

The Catholic Churches of Barber County Pastoral Council met at 7:00 p.m. at St. John on April 13, 2021. Chairperson Kay Koger called the meeting to order with members Father Mark Brantley, John Forester, Chuck Graves, Rayann Rucker, Anne Schreiner, Darrin Hern, and Daryl Honas present. Diane Seiler and Bev Miller were absent.

Father Mark began the meeting by leading the council in prayer. The minutes of the February 2021 meeting were approved.

Parish Reports:

Parish representatives reported on their activities since the last meeting.

Holy Rosary had Confirmation on March 24 for five confirmandi. Father Michael Klag of Pratt administered the sacrament. Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil were well attended.

St. Boniface reported their Easter Sunday mass had good attendance also, and that First Communion will be held Saturday, April 17. The funeral mass for longtime parishioner Lillian Blahut will be April 15.

St. John reported Easter Sunday mass was also well attended, and the Knights have recently sold their hall and now meet at the St. John rectory.

Pastor's Report/New Business:

Father Mark reported that the Holy Land pilgrimage in late September is full and has a waiting list.

He told the council that our Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Vinke of Salina, has left most decisions concerning the post-pandemic return to normal up to the local pastor. Father Mark has sought input about how to accomplish this from some parishioners and new guidance from the CDC, and we are attempting a measured, careful return to normal. Some of the pandemic restrictions have been removed in each parish while bearing in mind that if conditions worsen, these may be reimposed.

Father initiated a short discussion about what each parish would like to see in the way of future programs and activities to benefit parishioners. We agreed to give the matter some thought and seek input from parishioners as we move forward.

The council discussed possible improvements and repairs at the rectory, specifically replacing the single-pane basement windows to reduce heat loss and replacement of the worn carpet on the exterior steps.

The council also discussed the Barber County Catholic website contract renewal, deciding to leave it as is for the next three years, with Solutio continuing to sell advertising to pay for their hosting and maintenance and our parishes having no financial obligation. We also discussed Flocknote and eGiving. Participation is increasing, but very slowly. We will continue encouraging parishioners to take advantage of these innovations that make staying informed and involved easier, but as several members noted, some people are very resistant to change.

Father continues to explore options for a new sound company. He reminded us there may be spectrum issues as 5g networks advance, but no immediate changes are required. He also reported that he frequently hears complaints about poor sound quality in each church, so he spoke with a company in Wichita about possibly testing the acoustics in each church to identify problem spots and explore solutions.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 13, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Boniface.

Father closed the meeting by leading the council in prayer.