

CCBC Pastoral Council Minutes

October 19, 2021

The Pastoral Council of the Catholic Churches of Barber County met at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Rosary on October 19, 2021. Chairperson Kay Koger called the meeting to order with Father Mark Brantley and members Bev Miller, Chuck Graves, Rayann Rucker, Anne Schreiner, Darrin Hern, Diane Seiler and Daryl Honas present. John Forrester was absent.

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

Parish Reports:

Parish representatives reported on their activities since the last meeting:

St. Boniface had a wedding, two funerals, and their Parish School of Religion is underway.

St. John held one funeral, PSR has begun and this year includes a high school/adult class, "Altaration: The Mass Explained," and the dead trees in front of the church have been removed.

Holy Rosary had two funerals and three baptisms. The parish held a reception for long-time organist Ruth Schmidt and presented her with a handmade family rosary, and PSR is in full swing.

Pastor's Report/New Business/Unfinished Business:

Father Mark shared that the Holy Land pilgrimage was cancelled because of the uncertainty about Covid restrictions in Israel. He informed the council that there is still no official news about Bishop John. Father reported that our insurance company had recently inspected the rectory and strongly recommended replacing the torn indoor-outdoor carpet on the back stairs. The council agreed that the carpet should be replaced as soon as possible. Father reported that he has asked two contractors to bid on replacing the rectory's basement windows. The sound company has not returned his calls or emails, so we are stalled at present.

Father discussed the serious need for volunteers to step up and help in various ministries at all three parishes. The music ministry especially is in dire need, and Chuck mentioned the possibility of hiring a non-Catholic organist if it becomes necessary. There was discussion of looking for a religious sister to assist Father, but as they are declining in numbers Father didn't see much hope for that option. Father reported disappointing attendance at the Saturday Mass in Sharon, and there was some discussion about holding one Vigil Mass for Holy Rosary and St. Boniface on a rotating basis for the time being.

Father asked for the council's input about how we would like to see the parishes growing and improving, and several ideas were mentioned. Some were for physical improvements such as new carpet, but there was also interest in adding or growing programs for spiritual growth such as the video Bible study in Kiowa. The desire to increase parishioner involvement and create a stronger sense of Catholic community/family was mentioned, but as always, how to inspire people to engage remains a challenge, especially with all the competition from outside activities. Daryl

offered to speak to the school superintendent about keeping Wednesday evenings free of school activities so as not to interfere with PSR or other church events.

Bev reported that Linda Forrester has ordered “At Home with the Word” for all three parishes.

The Council will change regular Mass times on the first Sunday of Advent according to the established rotation, which means Medicine Lodge will have Mass on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m., St. Boniface will be on Sunday morning at 8:30 and St. John at 10:30. However, Father may adjust this schedule if necessary. No decisions were made yet about Mass times for the upcoming Holy Days of All Saints’ on November 1, Immaculate Conception on December 8, Christmas or Mary, Mother of God on January 1, 2022.

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be January 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Boniface.

Father closed the meeting by leading the council in the Hail Mary.