

CCBC Pastoral Council Minutes

March 8, 2022

The Pastoral Council of the Catholic Churches of Barber County met at 7:00 p.m. at St. Boniface on March 8, 2022. Chairperson Kay Koger called the meeting to order with Father Emmanuel Kosikumah and members Bev Miller, Chuck Graves, John Forrester, Rayann Rucker, Anne Schreiner, Darrin Hern, Diane Seiler, Julie Warner, and Daryl Honas present.

Kay began the meeting by leading the council in prayer. The minutes of the October 2021 meeting were approved.

Parish Reports:

Parish representatives reported on their activities since the last meeting:

St. Boniface had a funeral for Betty Schmidt, the Parish School of Religion continues, the Knights of Columbus Fish Fries on Fridays during Lent are underway and the first one had record attendance, and they will have several young people confirmed on April 6th. They also reported that they are preparing to replace the drapes at the church.

St. John celebrated First Communion for one young man and will have a regular Bible study during Lent.

Holy Rosary had a funeral for John Harding. Several youngsters had their First Reconciliation in preparation for their First Communion later this spring. The regular Tuesday morning breakfast continues each week after Mass, and Diane reported that about 20 people regularly attend. A women's book/study group on the 13 different types of prayer will be held during Lent.

Father Emmanuel introduced himself to the council and told us a little about his background. He is a missionary priest from the Diocese of Jasika in Ghana, where he was ordained on July 13, 1991, and served as a teacher there and then a parish priest for 14 years. He has been in the United States since last August. Prior to arriving in Barber County, he spent time at parishes in LaCrosse and Ashland. He is currently residing at the rectory in Sharon but will move to Medicine Lodge where the main office is now that Father Mark has taken medical retirement and moved to the priest's retirement center in Wichita.

Secretary Julie Warner had several questions for Father, including how to handle Mass Intentions and baptismal and marriage records going forward. Father requested a few changes to the bulletin, noting that there was no need for Reconciliation to be listed by appointment only any longer as he would be in the confessional 30 minutes before each Mass. Julie asked if she should plan to spend an hour or two in the office each week, and the council and Julie decided to have her office hours from 10:00 a.m. to noon each Wednesday.

Father Emmanuel noted that the altars at each parish were quite small, so requested a small stand for each altar to hold the book at Mass. These stands are available and will be placed as Father requested. He informed the council that he feels there should be regular Mass somewhere each

Wednesday, so during Lent it will be in conjunction with Stations of the Cross at Holy Rosary, with a regular time and place to be determined soon.

Diane addressed the need for commissioning of more Eucharistic Ministers since many have not been comfortable serving since the pandemic, and Father Emmanuel said he would check to see if he has been granted the capability to commission EMs.

Special Lenten observances at each parish were discussed. Stations of the Cross and Mass will be held each week at Holy Rosary on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m., at St. John Thursday's at 6:00 p.m., and at St. Boniface at 5:00 p.m. on Fridays. In addition, Father will have a Penitential Service & Adoration at Holy Rosary on March 22nd at 6:30 p.m., at St. John on March 24th at 5:30 p.m. before Stations of the Cross, and at St. Boniface on April 7th at 6:00 p.m.

The schedule for Holy Week was set as follows.

Holy Thursday: St. John at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday: St. Boniface at 1:00 p.m.; St. John at 3:00 p.m.; Holy Rosary at 5:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil: St. John at 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday: St. Boniface at 8:30 a.m.; Holy Rosary at 10:30 p.m.

The next Pastoral Council meeting was discussed, and Darrin suggested we change our meeting time to 6:00 p.m. instead of 7:00. All agreed, and the next meeting will be June 7th at St. John at 6:00.

The meeting was closed with the Hail Mary.