

CCBC Pastoral Council Minutes

June 7, 2022

The Pastoral Council of the Catholic Churches of Barber County met at 6:00 p.m. at St. John in Kiowa on June 7, 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, Diane Seiler, and Daryl Honas present. Darrin Hern and Julie Warner were absent.

Father Emmanuel began the meeting by leading the council in prayer. The minutes of the March 2022 meeting were approved.

Parish Reports:

Parish representatives reported on their activities since the last meeting:

St. Boniface had confirmation with the Bishop on April 6, Father Mark's funeral was held, and the Parish School of Religion had an end of year party. Very slowly but surely, the process of replacing the drapes at the church continues.

St. John had one baptism, and John mentioned the need to look at the sound system at the church. This will soon be an issue for all three parishes as our frequency will be taken over by other official entities. Daryl Honas agreed to check with a potential vendor in Great Bend about updating the systems.

Holy Rosary reported that funerals for Benny Ricke and Georgia Austin were held. Several youngsters had their First Communion earlier this spring. A committee of Brian Withrow, J.D. Thompson, Karin Traffas and Bev Miller is planning an all-parishes dinner to celebrate Deacon John Stang's ordination on July 18th after Mass at Holy Rosary. People will have the opportunity to contribute to a money tree for Father Stang.

Father Emmanuel brought several matters to the council's attention for consideration. First, he sees a need for clear leadership guidelines for the pastoral council. He told us he has been accustomed to the catechists or head sacristans participating in leadership meetings and feels this was beneficial in improving coordination of liturgies. Recent confusion about the readings for Ascension and Pentecost led Father to suggest closer communication between sacristans and himself about the liturgy, especially on those occasions when there are multiple readings to choose from. Father told us his view is that when there are multiple readings to choose from, the first reading should take precedence.

He asked how council members have been selected in the past, and members informed him that normally the process has been very informal with each member finding his or her own replacement when wishing to end their tenure. Some members have served for 10 years or more, and Kay suggested that we should set up clear guidelines and processes about the role of the council generally, members' terms of office, and possibly other issues as well and invited each member to come to the next meeting with suggestions we can compile into published guidelines for Pastoral Council.

Father also raised the subject of Confirmation, suggesting that in the future we try to coordinate among all three parishes into one ceremony. This would encourage a larger, more unified celebration of the sacrament and help the bishop's busy schedule.

Another issue he raised concerned parish's particular feast days. He noted that while St. Boniface and St. John have specific patron saints' feast days to celebrate, Holy Rosary does not, and suggested that the Feast of the Visitation, May 31st, would be the most appropriate choice because of its close ties to the prayers of the Rosary. He also feels it would be appropriate for each parish to have a special Mass to celebrate the parish's feast day, possibly moving it to the nearest Sunday.

One matter Father brought to the council's attention was the discrepancy between his actual experience with what our parishes provided for him in the way of some necessary household items, etc. and what the Diocesan guidelines told him he should expect as a missionary pastor here. The council was unfamiliar with the Diocesan document he had been given but agreed that all parishes need to obtain a copy of these guidelines and ensure we conform to them from now forward.

Finally, Father reported that Sr. Janice from the Chancery recently came to Medicine Lodge to visit with him about marriages and annulments and will be coming back on June 16th to instruct Julie about the record keeping required for each.

The Mass time for the next Holy Day of Obligation, the Feast of the Assumption on Monday, August 15th, was set at 7:00 p.m. at Holy Rosary. The next Pastoral Council meeting will be September 13th at Holy Rosary at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was closed with Father Emmanuel leading us in prayer.