

CCBC Pastoral Council Minutes

January 10, 2023

The Pastoral Council of the Catholic Churches of Barber County met at 6:30 p.m. at St. Boniface in Sharon. 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, and Diane Seiler present. Darryl Honas and Dakota Dohrmann were absent.

Father Emmanuel began the meeting by leading the council in prayer. Diane moved and Bev seconded approving the minutes of the September 2022 meeting, and the motion passed.

Parish Reports

Parish representatives reported on their activities since the last meeting:

St. Boniface had one funeral, Richard Hendricks, and one baptism, the Mason Eck baby. The paint and curtain project is underway, and Rayann and Anne report that the color chosen for the walls is “Pearly Gates.” The project will take three to four weeks; Mass will be held in the parish hall during that period.

St. John reported two baptisms, the Donaldson baby and the granddaughter of Linda Pulliam. Bev reported that the new sound system is installed and working well, and that several groups had rented their parish hall during the holidays. The women of St. John held a Christmas party, and the annual Live Nativity and soup supper following were both a great success.

Holy Rosary reported Father Emmanuel’s installation by Bishop John Brungardt. There was one baptism of a new baby Dohrmann, and the PSR Christmas Program and parish potluck supper were held shortly before the holidays. Diane reported that the painting of the parish hall has been completed and new carpet installation is scheduled to begin January 16th.

Father Emmanuel began his report by asking Kay for a report on her ACTS retreat experience. She said that while she met many wonderful people and she found some aspects of the program meaningful, overall its demands were physically uncomfortable and not as spiritually beneficial for her as she had hoped. However, she acknowledged that everyone likely has a different ACTS experience based on the individual’s expectations, previous experiences, personal faith journey, and individual personality.

Father noted that since our last meeting he has been pleased to see an increase in Mass intentions for the living and asked the council to continue promoting this. He also said that we should say Mass for our seminarians and pray for them regularly.

Father next spoke about the Eucharistic Revival, a three-year program during which a monstrance from the diocese will be rotated among all the parishes in the diocese. Father asked Brian Withrow to speak a bit about the program, and Brian stated that it stemmed partially from the dramatic decline in the belief in the Real Presence among Catholics as revealed in a 2019 national Pew Research study. This alarming reality inspired the bishops of the United States to act, and the three-year National Eucharistic Revival is the result, which is intended to lead to a rediscovery of the source and summit of our Faith in the Eucharist.

The Barber County parishes will receive the monstrance from St. Joseph’s in Ashland and host it throughout February. Times will be posted in the bulletin and on the website, but in brief, Holy Rosary will receive it from St. Joseph’s the first of February and hold our first Exposition and Adoration on First Friday, February 3, and again on Sunday, February 5th. From Medicine Lodge, the monstrance will move to St. John on February 9th and Exposition and Adoration will be held that day and again on Sunday, February 12th and

Thursday, February 16th. On Friday, February 17th, the monstrance will go to St. Boniface for Exposition and Adoration that day and again on Saturday, February 18th, Friday, February 24th, and finally on Saturday, February 25th. The monstrance will then return to Medicine Lodge for a period of Perpetual Adoration the evening of Sunday, February 26th and Exposition and Adoration before daily Mass on February 28th, after which the monstrance will be transported to Sacred Heart in Pratt.

The next order of business was discussion of Lent and Holy Week services and schedules. They will be as follows:

Ash Wednesday--February 22

8:30 a.m. at St. John, Kiowa
5:00 p.m. at St. Boniface, Sharon
6:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary, Medicine Lodge

Weekly Stations of the Cross:

6:00 p.m. Wednesdays at Holy Rosary (before regular Mass)
6:00 p.m. Thursdays at St. John
5:00 p.m. Fridays at St. Boniface

Penance Services:

Tuesday, March 7th, 5:30 p.m. at St. Boniface
Wednesday, March 8th, 5:00 p.m. at Holy Rosary
Thursday, March 9th, 6:00 p.m. at St. John

Holy Week:

Holy Thursday: St. Boniface at 6:30 p.m.
Good Friday: St. Boniface at 1 p.m.; St. John at 5:00 p.m.; Holy Rosary at 6:30 p.m.
Easter Vigil: St. Boniface at 8:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday: Holy Rosary at 8:30 a.m.; St. John at 10:30 a.m.

Father Emmanuel informed the council his trip home to Ghana will be from around April 10 through May 16th. He has already arranged for different priests to cover for him in his absence: Father John Strasser, Father Ted Skalsky, Father Dwight Birket, and Father Floyd McKinney. He suggested that if there is a need for a priest for a funeral during his absence we contact Father Eric in Ashland or call the Chancery.

Father's return will be shortly before Confirmation, scheduled May 21st at the 10:30 Mass at St. John.

Father led the council in a brief discussion about the need to bring our parish membership statistics up to date for the diocese. He also asked for help bringing our death records up to date, and Rayann, Diane and Bev will help with those for their respective parishes.

Finally, Father asked us to note the Pilgrimage for Life in Dodge City on January 28th. Details will be shared in the bulletin.

The next meeting was set for May 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at St. John.

The meeting was closed with Father Emmanuel leading us in the Hail Mary and Glory Be.