

CCBC Pastoral Council Minutes

May 23, 2023

The Pastoral Council of the Catholic Churches of Barber County met at 6:30 p.m. at St. John in Kiowa. Chairperson Kay Koger called the meeting to order with Father Emmanuel Kosikumah and members Chuck Graves, John Forrester, Rayann Rucker, Anne Schreiner, and Darryl Honas present. Diane Seiler, Bev Miller, and Darrin Hern were absent.

Father Emmanuel began the meeting by leading the council in prayer. Kay asked if anyone had objections or corrections to the January minutes. None being raised, the minutes were approved.

Parish Reports

Parish representatives reported on their activities since the last meeting:

St. John reported that Bishop Brungardt had confirmed four young people at Mass on Sunday, May 21st, and the parish hosted a dinner for them after. There was one baptism (Donaldson).

St. Boniface had one funeral, Herb Landwehr, and one baptism (Eck). They had a Mass for their high school graduates but it was not as well attended as they had hoped. Anne and Rayann reported that Totus Tuus will be held in July and expressed the hope that students from both Holy Rosary and St. John would take advantage of the opportunity to join St. Boniface students for this inspiring program.

The interior of St. Boniface church has been painted, but the purchase of new curtains for behind the altar has been delayed between the building committee and the Altar Society, the entity paying for the drapes. Father Emmanuel said he should be involved in finding a resolution to the issue, and Rayann suggested a meeting of the Altar Society, the Building and Finance Committee, and Father be held to make a final decision soon.

Holy Rosary had one baptism since our last meeting (Honas). The parish also had a Mass for the parish's high school graduates. Two new Eucharistic Ministers were commissioned, Kay Koger and Brenda Wright. The parish hall painting and carpet project has been completed.

Pastor's Report/New Business

Father spoke about the need to update parish statistics to provide accurate information to Rome. Father is concerned that our numbers are not as accurate as they should be, and that perhaps we have been forwarding old numbers rather than updating them as expected. Council members from each parish agreed to see to it that a thorough count is completed. There was some discussion about how best to gather these numbers, whether to count families or households, but all agreed that the parish treasurer is the first source of current information and the count should proceed from there.

Kay brought up the subject of a new printer and laptop for the church office and our new secretary, Emmie Landwehr. The tri-parish printer is obsolete and must be updated. After some discussion, it was decided to ask Brian Withrow to meet with the secretary and Kay to order a new 4-in-1 office machine and dispense with the monthly printer contract situation we're currently in. Darryl will consult with Emmie about a new laptop.

The council discussed the issue of stipends and honorariums. In order to provide clarity and guidance about these to parishioners, a webpage and handout will be developed. Kay shared a sample web page from St. John the Baptist parish in Beloit, Kansas and said something like it could also be used as a handout available

at the office. Father said he would do some research with his fellow priests in the area about appropriate amounts, etc., and report his findings to us before we decide whether or not to proceed.

Finally, Father said he had been approached by missionaries from the Holy Land for permission to visit our parishes on the weekend of June 10th and 11th and raise funds for Catholic Families in the Holy Lands by selling various religious items. No one objected, so Father will tell them they have permission.

The next meeting will be August 22nd at 6:30 at Holy Rosary.

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