

CCBC Pastoral Council Minutes November 19th, 2024

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 and members Bev Miller, Diane Seiler, Darryl Honas, John Forester, Darin Hern, Mason Eck, Karen Traffas and secretary Malia Murphy present. Chuck Graves was absent.

Father Emmanuel began the meeting by leading the council in prayer. Kay asked all the members present to review the minutes from the July meeting and bring any objections or corrections to her attention. With no corrections being raised, the minutes were approved by Diane and seconded by Darin.

Parish Reports

Parish representatives reported on their activities since the last meeting:

St. John ordered new blinds for their windows. They also welcomed back Father Cosmos for a visit on August 29th.

Holy Rosary hosted the rosary in honor Charlotte Ringers passing. They also held a pizza party to celebrate the start of Parish School of Religion classes the Wednesday after Labor Day. In addition, there was one baptism (Hahn).

St. Boniface celebrated two marriages (Schmidt and Kiser). They also held Mass in the park to mark the beginning of Parish School of Religion classes resuming.

Father Emmanuel's Report

Father reminded the council of the Bishop's visit on January 4th and 5th.

He also addressed the change in Penance Services for December. They are as follows:

Holy Rosary - 6:00 pm Penance Service on the 10th

St. John – 5:30 pm Penance Service followed by Mass on the 12th

St. Boniface – 5:30 pm Penance Service on the 13th

Father reported that he would be reaching out about a date for confirmation again, since he has no response to emails. Kathy Dohm has graciously volunteered to prepare the 9 candidates from St. Boniface for their confirmation.

Father reminded the council of the Vocation teams from each parish and urged the members to find out how things are going in.

Old Business

Possible changes in the Triduum schedule were addressed. As it now stands, the same parish usually hosts Holy Thursday services and Easter Vigil, and all parishes have a Good Friday service. Some members feel it may be too much for just one parish to manage both Holy Thursday and the Vigil as well as a Good Friday service, but some council members are afraid if we consolidate services across the three parishes

attendance will suffer. Father Emmanuel expressed strong concern that many Catholics don't appreciate the importance of participating in the entire Triduum which is the apex of the liturgical year, even if Holy Thursday and Good Friday are not officially Holy Days of Obligation, and he would like to find some way to encourage improved attendance at all Triduum services from all parishioners in each parish. There was brainstorming on possibly attaching supplemental educational information to the bulletin to inform the congregation on the importance of attending the entire Triduum. There will be further discussion at the next meeting.

The council discussed the suggestion to have a volunteer appreciation celebration event again and decided to revisit it once more at the next meeting prior to springtime and the end of school.

New Business

Kay addressed the Secretary position being filled by Malia Murphy.

Council members discussed the pre-set Mass rotation, specifically addressing that St. John changes Mass times every two years. Father brought up that he had received an email from the Diocese Chancellery concerning allegations toward Mass times not rotating. He addressed the situation and reminded the council to inform parishioners on the schedule and to try to address issues in the church without involving the Diocese.

Members discussed and established Mass times for the upcoming Holy Days and Christmas Masses:

Immaculate Conception will remain on Sunday the 8th and will not have additional Mass times.

Christmas Mass –

St. Boniface – 4:00 pm Vigil Mass on December 24th

Holy Rosary – 6:00 pm Vigil Mass on December 24th

St. John – Tentatively 10:00 am Mass on December 25th

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

St Boniface – 4:00 pm Vigil Mass on December 31st

Holy Rosary – 6:00 pm Mass on January 1st

St. John – Tentatively 10:00 am Mass on January 1st

Father addressed that going forward, the parish would offer a stipend for meals rather than feeding any visiting priests as per previous priests' request.

The next meeting will be on February 11th at St. John at 6:30 pm.

Father closed the meeting with the Hail Mary.