

CCBC Pastoral Council Minutes

May 6th, 2025

The Pastoral Council of the Catholic Churches of Barber County met at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary in Medicine Lodge. Chairperson Kay Koger called the meeting to order with Father Emmanuel and members Darryl Honas, Chuck Graves, Mason Eck, Karin Traffas and secretary Malia Murphy present. Darin Hern, Bev Miller, Diane Seiler, and John Forester were absent.

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

Parish Reports

Parish representatives reported on their activities since the last meeting:

St. John had no news to report.

Holy Rosary reported 6 baptisms, and those 6 along with 1 other individual already baptized were received into the church during the Easter Vigil.

St. Boniface had 2 baptisms of adolescents (Inslee) and 6 First Communicants. There was a mass held in honor of the passing of the Pope. They also had one funeral (Schmidt).

Father Emmanuel's Report

Father reminded everyone of the Bishop's visit scheduled for the 10th and 11th of May when he will be administering Confirmation in Sharon. St. Boniface will host a dinner and reception after Confirmation on the 10th. Holy Rosary will have a Potluck Lunch after mass on the 11th in honor of the Bishop.

Father related a concern from a recent meeting at the chancery that not many parishioners are taking the diocesan newspaper to review information about the other parishes in our diocese as well as important messages from the bishop. He also brought to the council's attention the need for continued encouragement among the parishes to continue to fund activities in our diocese. We discussed posting regular reminders in the bulletin as well as making them part of the announcements at each parish.

Karin said that a St. Boniface parishioner had sent several pictures of various parish events to the Register, but these were never published. Father suggested that possibly the pictures were not sent to the correct places, and Mason further noted that it was possible an incorrect or outdated email address was used.

Father addressed the many individuals that have already attended the Adult Faith Education classes offered by Newman University and asked the council to continue encouraging other parishioners to consider attending.

Old Business

The board discussed the Triduum schedule changes and the feedback from the parishes. Holy Thursday and Good Friday had reasonably good attendance, but Easter Vigil did not have great attendance. It was suggested that going forward there be at least 2 Good Friday services.

Kay apologized that the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration discussed at the previous meeting was not brought to fruition. The new date for the celebration will be Sunday, June 8th at Holy Rosary after 10:30 a.m. mass. All members are to spread the word and invite anyone in the parish that volunteers in any way (teachers, lectors, servers, choir, council members, Eucharistic Ministers, etc.). Father Emmanuel stressed that attending the dinner should be a priority for all Pastoral Council members.

New Business

At our prior meeting, the council discussed the idea that the parishes should start donating to a family in need again as they regularly did in the past. The finance councils are to meet and discuss whether each parish will be able to do this. It was proposed that each parish donate \$100.00 quarterly to a new "Emergency Relief Fund" that would be then dispersed to families within in the parish when necessary. Karin motioned, and Mason seconded.

Karin reported that she had received feedback from parishioners who don't feel like they have a voice in what is decided at the Tri-parish meetings. It was discussed that going forward the time and date of upcoming meetings will be put in the bulletin and on the website to notify anyone who would like to attend and address the council, but it was emphasized that the most appropriate way for parishioner's concerns to be addressed is to bring them to their parish's pastoral council members, who would then address them at meetings as warranted.

Father raised concern that fewer parishioners were participating in Stewardship. He felt we were having fewer and fewer volunteers for each parish.

The next meeting will be on August 5th at St. Boniface at 6:30 pm.

Father closed the meeting with the Hail Mary.