

CCBC Pastoral Council Minutes November 11th, 2025

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

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

Parish Reports

St. John reported they had one funeral, Vicki Blevins, and recently held a parish brunch after their 8:30 a.m. Mass. They've arranged for Christmas lights to be put up on the church this year, and have conducted minor plumbing repairs in the rectory.

St. Boniface reported that a small electrical repair to the church lights had been completed. The parish is also conducting an ongoing food ministry for the Jane Swingle family.

Holy Rosary reported two funerals, Brad Mantooth and Dick Austin, and one baptism (Honas).

Pastor's Report

Father Emmanuel informed the council Bishop John has requested that each parish celebrate the feast of their patron saint in a special way next year to coordinate with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Diocese of Dodge City. Holy Rosary will celebrate theirs on May 31st, the Feast of the Visitation, because that's when Elizabeth spoke the words to the Blessed Mother that begin the Hail Mary. St. Boniface's celebration will be on June 5th, and St. John's on December 27th. Father also reported that the bishop is encouraging all parishes to arrange a pilgrimage to the Cathedral in 2026 to celebrate the diocesan anniversary.

The chancery is looking for a full-time receptionist and would like us to encourage anyone we think might be interested to apply, and the bishop is also asking us to promote Giving Tuesday, December 2, so we will have our secretary put a notice in the bulletin to encourage parishioners to take part.

Old Business

Kay shared information pro and con she'd received from Kathleen Blair about a church directory company St. Joseph's parish in Greensburg had recently used. John mentioned a business in Kiowa that does similar types of work, and will check with the owner to see if he would be interested in producing a directory for us. After some discussion, it was decided that we should pursue the project and hope to schedule the photography sometime during Lent in late February or March.

The Council finalized the Emergency Relief Fund. Each parish will contribute \$100 per quarter, and the funds will be sent to and administered by Carl Helfrich. Chuck suggested we consider this our second quarter of giving to the fund, the council agreed, and Bev volunteered to instruct Carl Helfrich to send \$600 to Jane Swingle of Sharon, who is experiencing health challenges.

New Business

The council agreed to follow the established rotation for new Mass times beginning the First Sunday of Advent, November 30th. The Saturday vigil Mass will be at Holy Rosary at 5:00 p.m., and the Sunday Masses will be St. Boniface at 8:30 a.m. and St. John at 10:30 a.m.

The times were set for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 8th. They are as follows: St. John - 9:00 a.m., St. Boniface - 11:00 a.m., and Holy Rosary - 6:30 p.m.

Father Emmanuel has set the dates for Advent Penance Services in each parish, and they will all be at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- December 9th - Holy Rosary
- December 11th - St. John
- December 12th - St. Boniface

Identical schedules were set for Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God as follows:

- 5:30 p.m. - St. John on December 24th and 31st
- 7:30 p.m. - St. Boniface on December 24th and 31st
- 10:00 a.m. - Holy Rosary on December 25th and January 1st

Kay announced that Malia Murphy has resigned as council secretary and that Carol Ricke has agreed to assume the position.

The council discussed the Catechesis of the Good Shephard, an elementary-level religious education program currently being used at St. Boniface. Several expressed a serious interest in learning more about it, and they agreed to invite Mary Pat Eck and Allison Ricke to attend our next meeting to demonstrate and explain it for us.

The next meeting will be on January 20th at Holy Rosary at 6:30 pm.

Father closed the meeting with a prayer.