

CCBC Pastoral Council Minutes

April 13, 2026

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. Father Emmanuel and members Diane Seiler, John Forester, Chuck Graves, Bev Miller, Mason Eck, Bonnie Belle, and Secretary Carol Ricke were present. Darrin Hern and Darryl Honas were absent. Guest Karin Traffas was present.

Father Emmanuel began the meeting by leading the council in prayer.

The minutes were approved as read.

Parish Reports

Holy Rosary: Kay Koger said the Leadership development dinner with the Bishop went well – there were 30 people or so in attendance. Unbound visited their parish, and Holy Rosary hosted a soup dinner for Fr. Vittorio Boria and parishioners. Adoration of Stations were prayed each week during lent at Holy Rosary.

St. John: Bev Miller said they had two baptisms, Unbound visited their parish, and they hosted a Mardi Gras party.

St. Boniface: Mason and Bonnie reported that Unbound visited, there were two baptisms, and St. Boniface hosted a celebration for Father before he left for Ghana. It was a nice event with parishioners from each parish in attendance.

Father Emmanuel's Report

Father asked if someone would mail back the unused folders to Unbound. Carol said she would do that.

Father stated that he had been here for four years and 5 months, and he offered gratitude to all parishes and people of each parish. Kay gave her regards and gratitude to father on behalf of the council.

Father talked about the visiting priests we would have in his absence. We will not have daily Mass during this time. The visiting priest will have confessions before Mass as usual. Father didn't know if the priests will stay at Medicine Lodge or Sharon, but he will let everyone know by tomorrow. Carol will bring bulletins to Sharon and leave other bulletins for the priest to take to Holy Rosary and St. John.

Old Business

St. John may change the dates for the 75th celebration from May 27th Confirmation Mass. Other parishes may also change their dates until we have a full-time priest again.

Karin Traffas discussed the South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging with the council. She stated that she was not getting help with anything. She needs someone 24/7, and they can't find anyone. Discussion followed, but nothing was decided.

Kay stated that the Holy Rosary parish census was almost finished. Bev said that Kiowa is working on theirs. Kay said that she would ask Georgina Paz or Sonya if Sharon needs to be doing a census this year too.

Kay said their picture-taking day for the church directory turned out well.

New Business

There are no Holy Days to worry about during Father's absence.

Kay asked and the council discussed whether there was any local family in need of support from the Emergency Relief Fund. Nathan Honas was suggested, but it was shared that Darryl had said at the last council meeting that they did not need any monetary help at this time. There was a Rosary said at Holy Rosary this evening for Nathan.

It was suggested that we need a real picture of Pope Leo, not an AI image in each church. Father said that he put up pictures of the Pope.

Father stated that he signed three documents resigning from each parish as requested from the Bishop and Sister Janice. (We later learned that Canon Law states that if a priest is gone for an uncertain amount of time, that priest must resign, but he will be reinstated when he returns.)

Father explained that he was happy after the dinner celebration, but then he had a call from the Vicar General Father Ted Stoecklein. The Vicar wanted to make sure Father had subs lined up during his absence, and he said that there were two complaints about the money collected for Father's trip. (We later learned that Diocesan policy states that second collections need to be approved by the Bishop, and that Father could not solicit money for his trip.) Everyone agreed that the people gave the money freely to Father. In response to the complaints, Father Emmanuel returned the money from each of the parishes.

The next meeting will be on July 14th at Kiowa at 6:30 p.m.

Father closed the meeting with a prayer, and we prayed the Hail Mary together.

~Submitted by Carol Ricke