

St. Denis Pastoral Council meeting minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

St. Denis Parish Hall – after 6 PM Mass

Members present: Fr. Michael Thiel, Jeff Otto, Michelle Pamperin, Cheryl Pahlow, Carol Van Straten, Amy Erickson, Lisa Gunderson, and Alan Van Straten

Opening prayer – Hail Mary

Questions of Fr. Michael

Father Michael spoke on the Christmas liturgies, decorations, and plans for next year's services. Some changes may occur in regard to scheduling. All-in-all the Christmas season went well.

Questions were addressed about the lack of training for the ushers, the need for more Eucharistic ministers, especially lectors and many other areas of St. Denis Parish life. The sound system continues to have some bugs to work out. Our church is not built in a way that is not conducive to good sound quality.

Michelle asked about a replacement on the council for Gina Schupp. Father Michael was satisfied with the number of people on the council. Amy Fielding graciously agreed to be the vice-chair.

Parish Mission Planning Report

Mark Schultz as the facilitator for the joint St. Denis and St. Patrick Parish Planning Team gave a rundown of the progress of the committee. He presented hand-outs of their findings based off of the parishes 2 annual meetings and the "brain storming" done at that time. Each parish has a list of 20 items that we see as areas of need. Based on the outline set up through the Green bay Diocese the committee has been working on steps 5-7. Step 8 will be the final part to implement the Vision, Mission, and Goals. Council members discussed and questioned both Mark and Father Michael on the progress of the committee's work. Positive comments were shared about where our parish will be headed.

A leadership meeting with the PMP team and councils scheduled for February 1 has been canceled. A new date has yet to be determined.

Ad Orientem – Mass

Father Michael explained what Ad Orientem is. Basically, it is a posture of all people at mass to face Jesus in the tabernacle – where the true Body and Blood of Christ is present. During the consecration, Father Michael would face the tabernacle to consecrate the host and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This posture is representative of the priest leading the people in prayer. This proposal was initiated by Bishop Ricken asking the priests in his diocese to consider this option.

The Bishop has explained that this is optional for the priests and their parishes. Father Michael would do some catechesis on this topic to help the congregation understand what is being done and why. Bishop Ricken has asked that this mass would only be offered from Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19 through the Feast of Christ the King Sunday, November 22, 2020. Father Michael's plan is to offer one weekday mass each month at both parishes throughout this time period. More information will be coming. After a brief discussion with questions the consensus was favorable from the council to give this a try. Father Michael handed out a document from Bp. Ricken with more details of ad orientem.

Fr. Michael's upcoming meeting with Bp. Ricken (1-31-2020)

Father Michael asked for our input as he meets with Bishop Ricken on Jan. 31st. Council members brought up the Xavier assessment that our parish owes. Many members talked about the strain on our parish's budget to come up with thousands of dollars to support a school that is a choice for families to make. Our parish is paying \$500 per month to work towards eliminating our debt of over \$40,000 to Xavier. It was mentioned that \$500 could be spent on our own religious education programs and be of more benefit to us. There was also some discussion on the One-to-One Capital Campaign that will be beginning soon. Families will be asked to give large amounts of money that the diocese will use for

projects within the diocese. Half of what we send will be kept in a “savings account” for our parish that we can request to get back for our own purposes. With the Bishop’s Appeal beginning soon, these requests for money are and will be big issues for our parish, since many parishioners even now do not give much or anything to St. Denis.

Meeting in a word – Many positive comments were shared.

Concluding prayer

Our meeting ended around 8:15 PM.

Next meeting – March 3, 2020 after the 6 PM mass (6:45)

Respectfully submitted by,

Carol Van Straten

Note for next meeting:

The St. Denis signs (3) as you enter Shiocton are looking like they are in need of repair or possibly just repainting. Carol Van Straten will bring this up at the next pastoral council meeting.