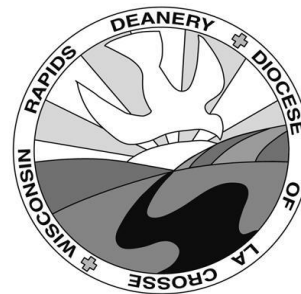


# WISCONSIN RAPIDS DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes of  
Thursday – April 28, 2016

In Attendance:

<u>Bob Hunn</u>	St. Vincent de Paul	<a href="mailto:hunfun@charter.net">hunfun@charter.net</a>
Joyce Lobner	St. Lawrence	<a href="mailto:joylob55@gmail.com">joylob55@gmail.com</a>
Terri Sersch	St. Vincent de Paul	<a href="mailto:tsersch@wctc.net">tsersch@wctc.net</a>
Pat Tyler	St. Alexander	<a href="mailto:namlaim@hotmail.com">namlaim@hotmail.com</a>
Barb Ziebell	St. Philip, Rudolph	<a href="mailto:zeke@tznet.com">zeke@tznet.com</a>
Fr. Jim Altman	Saints Peter & Paul	<a href="mailto:jaltman@solarus.net">jaltman@solarus.net</a>
Jim Hass	St. Lawrence	<a href="mailto:hasshaus@charter.net">hasshaus@charter.net</a>
Deacon Mark Quayhackx	St. Alexander/Sacred Heart	<a href="mailto:deaconmarkq@solarus.net">deaconmarkq@solarus.net</a>
Brenda Walczak	Our Lady Queen of Heaven	<a href="mailto:bwalczak@assumptioncatholicschools.org">bwalczak@assumptioncatholicschools.org</a>



1. Pam Christensen, new rep from Sacred Heart, was not in attendance. Andrea Pecher, Sally Sampson, Pat Dederich, and Kathy Huebl were also not able to attend.
2. Father Altman read the opening prayer.
3. Secretary's report was approved with one correction and no additions. Pat Tyler's email address was corrected.
4. Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$4,437.70 as of 4/28/2016. The new fiscal year begins July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Deanery payment is needed from each parish for the new fiscal year cycle.
5. Reports:
  - **Family Life Committee** –Pam Christensen, Family Life Committee rep, was not able to be present.
  - **Deanery Social Justice** –Deanery Social Justice Committee met on Tuesday, April 5. The "Kits for the Homeless" were collected throughout the deanery parishes during Advent and distributed through Helping Hands Gospel Mission. The program was very successful. Overflow items were given to Hope's Door and The Family Center. The annual Infant Needs Collection provided many items for distribution through Hope's Door and 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Pregnancy Center. The committee is looking to sponsor a coat drive this coming fall. It is considering alternating between a coat drive one year and an essentials collection the alternate year. The needs in the Adams/Friendship area remain depressing. There is a large Hispanic population experiencing a shortage of jobs, low wages, substandard housing, and lack

of adequate transportation. Citizenship or lack, thereof, is also a problem. The Diocese of La Crosse is addressing this problem as best as it can.

The committee is considering possible topics for the year's Fall Lecture Series. We are leaning toward presentations on the drug problem and resources in our area. The topic will be finalized at our June 14 meeting.

**Hospital and Nursing Home Ministry** –A person from St. Lawrence updated and compiled the names of each parish's residents of nursing and/or assisted living homes. Joyce shared that list with council members and recommended that it be added to the deanery website and shared with parish secretaries.

**Grief Support** (for all faiths) meets the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in Room 105 at St. Vincent de Paul. The group members also meet the third Monday of every month at 11 a.m. for lunch at Perkins Restaurant. Three couples and met and married since the group's organization.

- **Diocesan Pastoral Council** – As reported by Jim Hass, the meeting held on April 2, 2016 at the Diocesan Center in La Crosse.
  - 1) The change of status of St. Ann Parish, Brooks, was explained by Monsignor Kuntz. It is an oratory as of July 1, 2016 although what can and cannot be done still will be defined by the bishop. The financial effect on the diocese as we keep merging parishes is being watched. A discussion centered on the disengaging of threesome parishes to twosome. With the numerous young priests ordained, the priest count is staying constant in the diocese. The international priests are buying time to get these junior priests trained in the parishes.
  - 2) Monsignor Gorman reported the diocese is moving ahead with the diocesan anniversary book by Editions du Signe. The diocesan history is expected to be complete by January 2017 and all parish and institution histories by February 2017. Marketing to the parishes will then start in April/May and printing will start in July/August. Delivery to each parish would be arranged in October, ready for Christmas. Our anniversary starts March, 2018.
  - 3) Mr. Roberto Partarrieu explained about the project that Catholic Charities is starting for homeless people in a transitional-living center in the old convert at St. Anthony's in Loyal. Fr. Steve Brice is helping with the development which includes the whole community. They are looking at understanding and assisting the mentally ill homeless people as a key to success. In this year of Mercy this effort is of interest to many parishioners.
  - 4) The bishop reported on the visit to Santa Cruz Bolivia Mission Parish. In a meeting with the Archbishop of Santa Cruz, Bishop Robert Flock and our priests assigned to S. A. it was decided to pull out of the parish even though it was started by Fr. Joe Walijewski 60 years ago. So Father Keith Kitzhaber is returning to La Crosse and all financial assistance to the parish will end in a year. Fr. Joe's Guild money will now be directed toward Casa Hogar support. This was a very difficult decision.
  - 5) Bishop discussed topics from the USCCB and WCC meetings. The Wisconsin Catholic Conference is working on a multi-year project called "Lazarus at the Door"

which addresses poor people in Wisconsin. The USCCB is waiting for "Amoris Laetitia" the apostolic exhortation on the family following the 2014 and 2015 synods. Bishop Callahan stated he is watching both Cardinal Dolan of New York and Archbishop Listerick of Milwaukee regarding their methods of handling Catholic schools and how everything plays out.

5) Some items of interest from the Deanery and Constituency reports: a) The deanery-sponsored warming center in La Crosse often ran at full capacity this winter. b) A grave concern for the Marshfield deanery is the purchase of St. Joseph Hospital by Marshfield Clinic. Physicians were told they no longer have a choice/voice in how they practice medicine. c) Fr. Steve Brice is planning another deanery convocation in late October for the Thorp deanery. d) The Wausau deanery sees a need to develop a deanery backup plan to assist when a priest becomes ill. e) The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women reported using phone conference calls are going extremely well.

6) The annual Marriage Encounter Conference (begun in the 1970's) is being held at UWSP on August 4-7, 2016. It is non-denominational, open to all, and sponsored by the National Marriage Encounter Organization. Couples can sign up for part or all. UWSP dormitories, Dreyfus Union, and Collins Hall will be used. Costs for lodging, conferences, and meals are \$450 – 500 per couple for the four days. Speakers will address issues of concern to all married couples. If interested, see 2016 Conference at website [www.Marriage-Encounter.org](http://www.Marriage-Encounter.org)

The next Diocesan Pastoral Council meetings in 2016 are scheduled for August 6 and December 17.

#### Old Business:

- **Representatives from all parishes** – Bob is working on getting a rep from Saints Peter and Paul. Some potential candidates to ask are Sharon Dale or Sharon Scharf.
- **Deanery Directory**– Bob is waiting for some information from the parishes before the updated version is ready for publication.
- **New Deanery Events Calendar on Internet** – How to access:
  1. Go to Deanery website: [www.rc.net/lacrosse/rapidsdeanery](http://www.rc.net/lacrosse/rapidsdeanery)
  2. On the left side, click on Deanery Calendar
  3. In the middle of the screen, click on “Click here to access the Deanery Calendar” (access process to go into bulletins)We will start with parishes within Wisconsin Rapids. We will request that parishes email their events. Event posters can be linked to the event summary. Use of this site will promote parishes. Pertinent events held at Assumption Catholic Schools, the Marian Center, and St. Anthony Center should be included.
- **Encourage Deaneries to Sponsor one Syrian refugee family, as Requested by the Holy Father** – We are waiting for word from the Bishop. We are treading lightly since there is a 2-year vetting process.

**New Business:**

- **Possible 2016 Deanery Initiatives** –

Vatican themes for 2016...

The Deanery may consider a pilgrimage during the Year of Mercy, beginning at a parish in Wisconsin Rapids, ending at Sacred Heart in Nekoosa. A pilgrimage consists of a destination, confession, and reception of the Eucharist. When on a pilgrimage, you should look deep into yourself to have an idea of what you want to change. A volunteer project (work of mercy) should be incorporated into the pilgrimage. A suggested plan was to begin at St. Lawrence and stop at Food Pantry as the work of mercy. The committee to plan this includes Bob Hunn, Joyce Lobner, Pat Tyler, the SSPP rep, and Pam Christiansen.

Regularly-scheduled Communal recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

- **Deacon Kevin Reinee – new deacon in Adams area as of May 17.**

Father Altman led us in the closing prayer.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016 at 6 p.m. at Assumption School Library

Prayer Leader for the next meeting – Brenda Walczak, if Fr. Altman or Deacon Mark aren't present.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Walczak, Acting Secretary