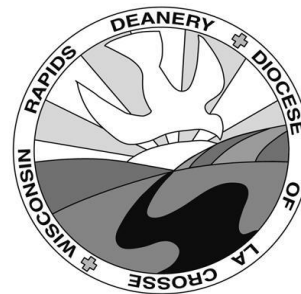


WISCONSIN RAPIDS DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes of Thursday – May 4, 2017

In Attendance:

<u>Bob Hunn</u>	St. Vincent de Paul	hunfun@charter.net
Joyce Lobner	St. Lawrence	joylob55@gmail.com
Terri Sersch	St. Vincent de Paul	tsersch@wctc.net
Pat Tyler	St. Alexander	namlaim@hotmail.com
Barb Ziebell	St. Philip, Rudolph	zeke@tznnet.com
Andrea Pecher	Holy Rosary	napecher@tds.net
Jim Hass	St. Lawrence	hasshaus@charter.net
Brenda Walczak	Our Lady Queen of Heaven	brendawalczak63@gmail.com
Pam Christensen	Sacred Heart	pcred2@yahoo.com
Sally Sampson	St. Lawrence	samsal@wctc.net



1. Excused: Fr. Jim Altman, Deacon Mark Quayhackx, Pat Dederich, Bill Hann, and Kathy Huebl were not able to attend.
2. Pat Tyler led us in the opening prayer.
3. Secretary's report (minutes of the last meeting on Jan. 19, 2017) was approved. Thanks to Barb Ziebell for preparing the minutes in Brenda's absence.
4. Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2,109.92 as of May 4, 2017. The report was prepared to reflect 1/19/17 through 5/4/17 and July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016 (3 fiscal years consolidated). Regarding parish support allocation for the next three years:
 - Based on Bishop's annual report for 2015-16.
 - Households contributing over \$100 within a year were considered.
 - This gives those parishes who budget, early notification prior to the fiscal year planning
 - Will cover the three fiscal years: 17/18; 18/19; 19/20
 - Calculation of the assessments for the three fiscal years is \$4,000.
5. Reports:
 - **Family Life Committee** –Pam Christensen, Family Life Committee rep, presented the following report based on a April 3, 2017 meeting:

The committee discussed their financials. After the BEET grant is received, there would be an event deficit of \$167.

The Couples Night event held in February was discussed. The venue switch from Mead to Ridges was well-received. Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven was attended by some who plan to do that again next year. Dinner for priests/deacons will continue to be absorbed by the committee. Planning is in process for 2018: potential speaker, venue (hopefully Ridges), advertising, possibility of including a 50/50 raffle that Kathy Voelker will continue to be the contact person for event reservations, and a request will be made of basket donations from PCCW.
 - **Deanery Social Justice** –The last meeting of the Deanery Social Justice Committee was on April 25, 2017. The committee reported on the fall lecture series (The Status of Drug Use in Wisconsin Rapids) to be held on October 4 (speaker: Narcotics Detective Nate Reblin) and October 11 (Wood County Drug Task Force Panel

Discussion) from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. at McMillan Memorial Library in the All-Purpose Room. The presentations were well-received.

The committee also reported on the status of the grief support group that meets monthly at St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Fifteen to seventeen people participate in this group each month, indicating popularity.

Terri stated that she was donating to the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Library one or more copies of books about the history of the diocese.

The Lenten collection for infant items and adult essentials was well supported by parishioners and will be continued throughout the deanery parishes.

The directors of Catholic Charities and the Office of Ministries and Social Concerns have formed the Diocesan Social Ministry Advisory Committee consisting of a representative from each deanery. The directors stated as follows: "We would like to integrate our outreach to the poor and marginalized more closely and intentionally with the social ministry being carried out in our parishes and deaneries."

- **Diocesan Pastoral Council** – As reported by Jim Hass, the meeting was held on March 25, 2017 at the Diocesan Center in La Crosse. Topics discussed were as follows:

School Choice by Tom Reichenbacher – There are 66 schools with under 7,000 students within the diocese. The private school choice program was started about 4 years ago. Today all seven systems and two individual schools qualify to participate. Parents of students apply online between Feb. 1 and April 20 each year, based on family size and income. If their students receive vouchers, the parents must reapply each year and provide proof of residency. Schools that participate in the Choice Program receive great financial and sustainability benefits.

Ad Orientem (To East) by Christopher Carstens – This is a valid, historic option during the Mass especially the Consecration where the priest would turn to the east (or "liturgical east") to focus back to God as Father. Basically, the priest is leading the congregation to the heavenly direction, east, that signifies unity and destination based on theological concern. This option should be discussed at the deanery level. Any pastor should contact the Bishop if there are questions. This is not going back to the old Latin rite and English continues.

Sequel to Dusk is My Dawn by Joseph O'Brien – Joe worked at the Catholic Times for over 15 years and is currently planning to write a historical sequel to *Dusk is My Dawn*, published 50 years ago. It will be a December release, and he's looking for interesting stories and narratives from all parishes that may contribute to a good understanding of the history of our diocese. Stories will be written and also videoed. All parishes will be contacted.

Merger Update – by Monsignor Kunz – Currently St. Joseph Parish in Black River Falls and St. Keven Parish in Melrose are undergoing merger. This is also true of Newman/St. Stanislaus Parishes in Stevens Point. Mergers are usually led by the pastors.

Diocesan Sesquicentennial by Jack Felsheim – The "Coffee Table" commemorative history book is complete and parishes are asked to place their orders by June for distribution before Christmas. As part of the 2018 celebration, numerous bulletin inserts, social media support and other educational opportunities are planned for next year. In addition, the Bishop will be doing deanery visits and ours (and that of Tomah) is planned for April 6-8, 2018. The Bishop will visit schools, meet

parishioners, perhaps the mayor and other civic leaders and this should be a media event to draw attention to our 150 year history. Jack will be available to talk and assist at our deanery meetings, if desired.

USCCB and Wisconsin Catholic Conference – The Bishop reported he is watching medical ethic issues especially with Marshfield Clinic taking over St. Joseph Hospital from Ministry Health Group (now Ascension). Dr. Haas would be addressing these issues at an open meeting in Madison on March 27 and with legislators at the Capitol the next day.

Membership – Jim Hass is at the end of his second and last term and will need to be replaced by the dean with a new Wisconsin Rapids deanery representative. His last meeting was August 19 and the new rep will be initiated at the December meeting. The duration of a term is commonly no more than 2 terms of 2 years each.

Old Business:

- **Representatives from all parishes** – Bob is working on getting a rep from Saints Peter and Paul.
- **Deanery Directory**– Bob is waiting for some information from the parishes before the updated version is ready for publication. The format has changed.

New Business:

- **New Deanery Events Calendar on Internet** – How to access:
 1. Go to Deanery website: 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. Bob has asked parish secretaries to assist in this process. 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.
- **Deanery website** - We no longer have the website “master” service of Tom Enright. Phil Kosloski has agreed to update the site at a fee of \$35 per month while we look for a willing volunteer. We are grateful to Phil for this help.
- **Theme-centered Events** - St. Philip Fatima Centennial Posters. Help promote by sending information to each parish secretary. We can promote using the Myparishapp. In the deanery calendar (within June 13th through October), one can click to open the event. Then one can click on the link to the poster PDF which can be printed.

We recited the “Memorare” as the closing prayer.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 6 p.m.** at Assumption School Library.

Prayer Leader for the next meeting – Joyce Lobner has volunteered.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Walczak, Acting Secretary