

WISCONSIN RAPIDS DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes of
Thursday – Sept. 21, 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
Barb Ziebell	St. Philip, Rudolph	zeke@tznet.com
Jim Hass	St. Lawrence	hasshaus@charter.net
Sally Sampson	St. Lawrence	samsal@wctc.net
Fr. Valentine – Dean	Our Lady Queen of Heaven	gasparraj@hotmail.com
Brenda Walczak	Our Lady Queen of Heaven	brendawalczak63@gmail.com
Pat Dederich	St. James	patdederich@tds.net



1. Excused: Deacon Mark Quayhackx, Pam Christensen, Pat Tyler, Andrea Pecher, Bill Hann, and Kathy Huebl were not able to attend.
2. Jim H. led us in the opening prayer.
3. Secretary's report (minutes of the last meeting on May 4, 2017) was approved as written.
4. Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$5,137.08 as of Sept. 21, 2017. As of that date, all but four parishes have contributed their annual Deanery Pastoral Council assessments.
5. Reports:
 - **Family Life Committee** –Pam Christensen, Family Life Committee rep, was not present.
 - **Deanery Social Justice** –The last meeting of the Deanery Social Justice Committee was on Sept. 13, 2017. The committee reported on the upcoming fall lecture series (A Path Toward Progress – What's Been Happening in Wisconsin Rapids in regard to the Drug Epidemic) held on October 4, 2017 at McMillan Library (speaker: Detective Kasandra Borchart).

The committee also reported on the development of a mission statement: **The Wisconsin Rapids Deanery Social Justice Committee strives to support and promote the social teachings of the Catholic Church in our community.** The purpose of the committee is to do the following:

- ✓ Be a catalyst to bring social justice activities to all the Catholic parishes in the deanery
- ✓ As Catholics, bring social justice activities to our South Wood County communities
- ✓ Function as a joint body to bring representatives together from individual parishes to coordinate and strengthen its efforts

As the Deanery Social Justice Committee discerns its place in the deanery and community, it seeks assistance from the deanery pastors to establish the following:

- What is the deanery's expectation for this committee and is it meeting that expectation?
- How will all deanery parishes provide support and committee representatives?

- As a request of the new Dean, would it be possible for a Deanery Social Justice Committee rep to be allowed to be present at the monthly pastoral meeting at AHS just long enough to pass on social justice issues within our deanery?

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.” Thus far, Catholic Charities USA has accomplished the following:

- ❖ Sent \$2 million for Hurricane Harvey relief
- ❖ Sent \$2 million for Hurricane Irma relief

The Diocese of La Crosse has purchased a fully equipped disaster website for use regarding disaster awareness (floods, etc.)

Joyce made a report on deanery jail ministry. She stated that the group is successfully performing jail ministry duties as scheduled every Tuesday evening, three months out of each year. It isn’t always a guarantee that the jail ministers will be able to meet with inmates. A call to Wood County Jail must be made on those Tuesday afternoons to determine if there are eligible candidates and available meeting rooms.

- **Diocesan Pastoral Council** – As reported by Jim Hass, the meeting that was to be held in August 2017 at the Diocesan Center in La Crosse was cancelled. **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 to have been held on 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. The Council meets three times per year.

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:

- **Diocesan Sesquicentennial (150 years) Celebration** – In celebration of the one hundred fifty year anniversary of the Diocese of La Crosse, Bishop Callahan plans to visit every deanery during this 17/18 year. Media coverage will be arranged. The following are the events scheduled for his visit to Wisconsin Rapids:
 - ✚ Visiting Friday, April 6 and Saturday, 7, 2018
 - ✚ Friday, April 6:
 - Visit to one or more of the Assumption Catholic Schools
 - Visit to Rudolph Grotto
 - 5:30 p.m. Dinner with Bishop Callahan at Hotel Mead (joined by Catholic school representatives, area clergy, mayor, Knights of Columbus, etc.)
 - ✚ Saturday, April 7:
 - Deanery Mass held at S.S.P.P at 9:30 a.m.

- **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 \$25 per month while we look for a willing volunteer. We are grateful to Phil for this help.

Father Valentine, the acting Dean, led the group in the closing prayer.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 18, 2018 (3rd Thursday) at 6 p.m.** at Assumption School Library.

Prayer Leader for the next meeting – Brenda Walczak has volunteered.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Walczak, Acting Secretary