

PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Members Present: Bishop John, Fathers Jim Dieker, Chuck Mazouch, Ted Skalsky, Anselm Eke, and Bob Schremmer

Excused Absent: Fathers Aneesh Parappanattu and Mark Brantley

Pastoral Office

Update on Election Process (Father Jim)

A ballot with two candidates has been sent to eligible voting priests to elect one new member. Completed ballots are due to Father Jim by Monday, June 24.

Locking the Church during Mass (Father Chuck)

Some months ago someone approached Father Chuck with concerns surrounding this person's parish locking the door after Mass begins. This was one of the responses this particular parish chose to take after some safety training had been offered at the parish.

This follows some work this council did over a year ago on church safety. At that time Fr. Ted Stoecklein sent out a survey to pastors. At that time six parishes had already had some kind of training and another nine parishes were working on a plan to provide training.

A reminder of some of the resources available to provide safety training:

- Steve Billinger (retired Highway Patrol, currently on staff with the Barton County Sheriff Department)
- Local Law Enforcement (police, sheriff or school resource personnel)

Kinds of Training and/or Elements of the Training:

- ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Escape)
- Recognition of the Threat
- A course of action
- Coordination with Authorities

In early 2018 Catholic Mutual also sent out information with regard to parish safety.

All of our Catholic Schools have a secure entry system and all schools have had active shooter training.

Bishop John encourages pastors to consult with his pastoral council to determine what safety training and safety elements may be best for his parish/parishioners.

Meeting of International Priests (Father Anselm)

The international priests met after retreat to develop a plan and a system to communicate how they might be able to stagger their plans for home visits/vacation so that there won't be three or four priests out of the diocese at the same time. The group will meet again toward the end of the year to strategize vacation times in 2020.

College of Consultors (Bishop John/Sister Janice)

A discussion was had about the membership of the College of Consultors.

Auditing of Clergy Files (Sister Janice)

- We have secured the services of a retired judge and attorney who is presently reviewing clergy files. At the end of the process, he will present a report to the Bishop of his findings. In turn the Bishop will provide a report to the Kansas Attorney General.

Teaching Office

Promoting Sunday as the Lord's Day (Father Ted)

Is there anything we can do in a unified manner to promote the importance of worship and promote the observance of Sunday as the Lord's Day?

Comments:

- One issue is that of those who are not married in the church—if they can't receive Holy Communion they do not come at all.
- Can we talk to activity directors of schools or coaches of sports teams asking them to avoid scheduling games on days we should be attending Mass (eg. Sunday mornings or Holy Thursday)? This may need to be an ecumenical effort.
- If we could get folks to come, there would be a change in stewardship, a change in parishes on the verge of "dying."
- "The Amazing Parish" – Being intentional about hospitality and meeting people where they are.

Evangelization with Joy (Bishop John)

As a follow-up to the Spring Prebyteral Assembly, Bishop John will send an email to the priests encouraging them to get input from their parishioners (perhaps cards in the pews or discussion with the pastoral council, parish staff, committees or some kind of survey).

- Focus on the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is at the center.
 - How do I fall deeper in love with Jesus, my Savior?
 - How do I evangelize as a missionary disciple, sharing my loving passion for Jesus?
 - What is bearing fruit in the Lord in my personal life? ...in our parish? ...What can we do to fertilize and cultivate so it will bear more fruit?

Next meeting is Tuesday, August 13, 2019