

**PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING Minutes**  
**November 21, 2017**  
**St. Joseph Church, Hayward**

I. PRELIMINARIES

A. Welcome

B. Prayer led by Rev. Gerald Harris, Chairperson

C. Bishop James Powers called meeting to order

Attendance taken by Debra Lieberg, Chancellor, due to absence of Rev. James Tobolski, Secretary.

Present:

Bishop James Powers	Rev. Ed Anderson
Rev. Gerald Harris, Chairperson	Rev. Gregory Hopefl
Very Rev. Chris Kemp, Vice Chair	Rev. Paul Paré, OFM
Rev. Ronald Serrao, Treasurer	Rev. Andrew Ricci
Rev. Michael Tupa	

*Ex-Officio member:* Very Rev. Kevin Gordon, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy

*Dean:* Very Rev. John Gerritts, Dean of SW Deanery

*Staff:* Mr. Daniel Blank, Director of Administrative Services  
Ms. Christine Newkirk, Director of Lay Ecclesial Ministry,  
Diocesan Consultation & Diaconate Formation  
Mr. Steve Tarnowski, Director of Stewardship & Development  
Ms. Debra Lieberg, Chancellor

Absent/Excused: Rev. Frank Kordek, OFM; Very Rev. Jim Tobolski;

and *Ex-Officio member:* Rev. Thomas Thompson, Dir. of Vocations

II. Approval of MAY 16, 2017 MEETING MINUTES (August Meeting cancelled). Motion to approve made by Rev. Andrew Ricci and seconded by Rev. Ron Serrao.

III. Approval of NOVEMBER 21, 2017 AGENDA

A. Additions included:

i. Upcoming Priest Assembly

ii. Safety Celebrations

iii. Beatification of Rev. (*now Blessed*) Solanus Casey

IV. Bishop Powers Communication, Correspondence and other information

A. Bishop's Conference last week Sunday through Thursday (November 12<sup>th</sup>-16).

i. 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USCCB

1. Little has changed since its inception – immigration was the hot topic then as it is now.

2. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program: Partial statement from the Catholic Bishops of Wisconsin on the termination of the DACA program 6 months from now: ... *of the 8,000 DACA Wisconsinites, who are among almost 800,000 DACA young adults nationwide, know no other home than the U.S., having been brought here in their youth through no choice of their own. The DACA program allows these individuals to seek employment and education without fear of being forced to leave their family and home. DACA*

*young adults are students in our schools and universities, leaders in our parishes, veterans of our military, and participants in our economy.*

- B. National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC):
  - i. Bishop attended NCYC immediately following the USCCB meeting and rode in one of the four buses back to the Diocese of Superior with the almost 200 youth and chaperones from the Diocese.
  - ii. *Called* was the NCYC Theme this year and the speakers' talks were well aligned with the theme and were deemed excellent.
- V. Rev. Kevin Gordon, Vicar for Clergy Report
  - A. No major health updates.
  - B. Rev. Jojappa Madanu, Sacramental Minister at the parishes of St. Dominic, Frederic and Immaculate Conception, Grantsburg, has been granted a ten year leave from Bishop Gali Bali of the Diocese of Guntar, allowing Rev. Jojappa to stay in the DOS until 2028.
  - C. Rev. Kevin Gordon and Bishop plan on meeting with the international priests to go over their timeline in the DOS, confirming the dates documented in their files.
- VI. Vocations Update; given by Chris Newkirk in Rev. Thomas Thompson's absence:
  - A. Current: Dan Tracy and Deacon Joe Stefancin are seminarians in their first year at St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee (House of Formation) with classes held at Sacred Heart. There is also one applicant for the seminary.
  - B. Richard Rhinehart scheduled to be ordained a Transitional Deacon on Sunday, December 17, 2017, 2 p.m. at St. Peter the Fisherman Church, Eagle River and ordained to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood on Sunday, June 24, 2018, 4 p.m., Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior.
  - C. National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD) in New Orleans, LA, from September 22 -29, 2017. Five priests from our Diocese attended the Conference. (Rev's. Tom Thompson, John Anderson, Patrick McConnell, David Neuschwander, and Adam Laski).
  - D. December 19, 2017 is a DOS Vocations' Team Meeting.
  - E. Rev. Adam Laski took four young men to visit the seminary in Winona, MN.
  - F. 2017 Fall Conference – theme '*Here I Am Lord*' with Rev. Gregory Ihm, Director of Vocations; Diocese of Madison as keynote.
  - G. Vocations' Posters out a little late due to personnel changes at company who produces them.
  - H. Vocations' Prayer Card – grammar mistake; look over and correct as needed before ordering more cards.
  - I. Vocations' Curriculum from Bishop Hammes Center Staff – no clergy feedback at this time.
- VII. Unfinished Business
  - A. Parish clustering & planning; A New Springtime Revisited.
  - B. Parish Life Coordinator (PLC)/Parish Director (PD)

- i. Subcommittee on laity involvement.
  1. Rev. Andrew Ricci summarized the November 1, 2001 publication (A New Springtime) and noted the similarity of the current needs of the parishes and the Diocese. Technology was not really mentioned as a resource nor was International Priests coming in to assist. (handouts)
  2. Rev. Andrew Ricci looked ahead in the status of Diocese with retirements and ordinations.(handout)
  3. Deanery meetings involving the laity are recommended in the spring of 2018 with discussion questions proposed by the presbyteral council with follow up determining the future path of the DOS.
  4. Parishes need to look at their Viability Studies and how things have changed.

Lunch Break: *Following a blessing led by Bishop Powers,  
We crossed the street looking forward to the lunch hour.*

*The food smells that drifted while walking in  
Were familiar especially to an Italian.*

*The salad was cool and mostly green,  
Eating with pizza and soup in between.*

*The assorted pizzas and onion soup flavor  
Remained with us later to ruminant and savor.*

*The carrot, pumpkin and chocolate loaves  
Were in the shape of circles filled with frosting like snow.*

*With Thanksgiving this week no turkey was there  
But blessings were abundant throughout the air.*

- C. Diocese of Superior Finance Council/Daniel Blank, Dir. of Admin. Services:
  - i. Membership Status: thank you to those who submitted names for the Diocesan Council. If you know of others who would be an asset to this council, please send their names and contact info to Dan Blank. Quarterly DOS Finance Council meetings are planned.
  - ii. Notices seeking a Director of Finance have been sent out (website, newspapers, ...). Deadline for application submissions is December 8, 2017.
  - iii. Property report included:
    1. the sale of the UWS Newman Center Building completed in September. It's not about the building, but about the ministry. The UWS Newman group meets weekly in a room in Yellow Jacket Union, Brett Jones as their advisor.

2. House on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street is empty with Msgr. Philip Heslin living at New Perspectives assisted living. Once the cleaning is completed, Chris Newkirk may stay there when she comes to Superior instead of staying at a motel.
3. Rectory in Turtle Lake has been sold.
4. Merrill has some property up for sale.
- iv. 2018 Emphasis on Parish Financial Controls with best practices reminders and training. Information was distributed to the clergy at the Clergy Workshop. Training for Parish Bookkeepers will be on the calendar.
- v. Embezzlement Case Reports:
  1. Webster: four years have passed and sentencing is scheduled for December 4; Rev. Michael Tupa will give a parish victim impact statement.
  2. Rice Lake: meetings with Federal prosecutors and IRS; formal charges in the next month or so. Cluster is moving forward.
  3. Hudson: collection theft; prosecuted in local state court; about \$40,000 but cost may be considerably less.
  4. Suggestion that background checks include more detailed information.

#### VIII. New Business

A. Catholic Services Appeal (CSA)/Faith in Our Future (FOF)/Bishop's Legacy/Flood & Natural Disaster Collections; Steve Tarnowski, Dir. of Stewardship and Development, presented information on handout:

i. <u>2016-2017 CSA Snapshot:</u>	<u>2017-2018 CSA Snapshot</u>
GOAL: \$2,175,000	GOAL: \$2,200,000
PLEDGE: \$1,977,399	PLEDGE: \$1,201,289.90
FAMILIES: 28,649	PAID: \$994,218.78
GIFTS: 7,899	GIFTS: 5,516
PERCENT GOAL: 91%	PERCENT GOAL: 55%
AVERAGE GIFT: \$250	

*Be a cheerleader! No single parish could exist on its own without the CSA!*

- ii. Faith in Our Future
  1. Progress Report: Sept. marked year 4 of fulfillment phase. As of Nov.2017:
 

TOTAL PLEDGED: \$17,748,217.39

TOTAL PAID: \$16,234,762.62

TOTAL PAID PARISHES/SCHOOLS: \$3,059,900.87

3 PARISHES CONDUCTED 'PIGGYBACK' CAMPAIGNS TO RAISE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR PARISH NEEDS. TOTAL RAISED: \$6,001,267.00

2013/14 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL: \$2,000,000.00
  2. Final Progress Report being prepared.

iii. BISHOP'S LEGACY CIRCLE:

1. Leadership Giving After Faith in Our Future
2. "Bishop's" because the Bishop is the leader of the Diocese and who donors look to and respect.
3. "Legacy" to communicate that we are providing for the critical needs current and future.
4. "Circle" to reflect a close, tight-knit group.
5. Mission: *...is a membership organization of Roman Catholic leaders dedicated to helping the Bishop of Superior meet current & future critical needs within the Church of northern Wisconsin by raising awareness and providing capital support for the spiritual, ministerial and educational needs of the Diocese.*
6. Membership: donors who give \$1,000 or more annually beyond your CSA & parish stewardship.
  - a. Donation may be fulfilled through various types of gifts such as cash, securities, pledges, bequests and deferred gifts.
7. Support is needed in the Diocese in many areas of education, service, and ministry; used at the discretion of the Bishop.

iv. Special Collection Update as of November 20, 2017

1. Barron County Tornado: \$57,698.47
2. Hurricane Harvey: \$120,212.22
3. Mexico Earthquake: \$31,723.79
4. Hurricane Irma: \$29,114.16
5. Maria: \$26,317.17

B. Acapella Saturday, February 3, 2018

- i. Bishop said that there is a music ministry workshop and rather than staying for the workshop, some music ministers need to get back to the parish for Mass of anticipation. If you would like your music minister to attend the complete workshop, having an acapella Mass or no music is an option.

IX. Ongoing Formation of Priests/Rev. Kevin Gordon reported:

- A. Priest's Retreat went well.
- B. Clergy Workshop – financial controls and best practices;  
Rev. Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., National Catholic Bioethics Center, Gender Identity, Christopher Hurtubise, Gender Issues in DOS.
  - i. Handout with a summary of evaluation comments.
- C. Priest Assembly in spring – evil in our society

X. Additional Agenda Items added

- A. Safety in Celebrations/Bishop Powers
  - i. Can we prevent it? (shootings, ...)
  - ii. Training for ushers, priests, parishioners, youth, ...
  - iii. Bring suggestions and concerns to February meeting.

- B. Beatification Mass of Blessed Solanus Casey who was baptized at St. Joseph Mission Parish, Prescott, and received 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion at St. Patrick's Parish, Hudson.
  - i. Saturday, November 18, 2017, Detroit, MI
  - ii. Rev. John Gerritts & Steve Richter arranged for a bus to go from St. Patrick's Parish, Hudson.
    - 1. 51 passengers
    - 2. Left Friday, November 17 at 9 a.m., stopping at St. Francis de Sales Seminary for a tour and pizza dinner.
    - 3. Toured Solanus Casey Museum – Stained glass window from old St. Patrick's Parish, Hudson was displayed along many items and much information.
    - 4. Returned to St. Patrick's Parish, Hudson, about 6 p.m., Sunday, November 19, 2017.
    - 5. Excellent pilgrimage; very well organized.
    - 6. Blessed Solanus Casey's Feast Day is July 30; honor him due to connections to the Diocese.
- C. Hayward Parish Center Kitchen Crew wondered if we wanted lunch following the PC meeting around 1 p.m. or keep the schedule as it is (12 p.m.) with a break between portions of meeting?
  - i. It was unanimous to keep the meeting the way it is with lunch at 12 p.m. Bishop asked Debra Lieberg to notify the parish office with this information – done.
- XI. Future Agenda Items
  - A. New Springtime
    - i. Questions for Deaneries
    - ii. Update New Springtime 2018
    - iii. Parish Assessments/Viability – parish to evaluate how things have changed?
  - B. Priests' Assembly – spiritual warfare.
- XII. Next meeting: February 20, 2018; 11 a.m., Hayward Parish Center.
- XIII. Motion to adjourn meeting made by Rev. Ed Anderson and seconded by Rev. Chris Kemp.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Lieberg, Chancellor (in the absence of Rev. James Tobolski).

  
Debra Lieberg  
Chancellor