

Dodge East Parishes Joint Pastoral Council Minutes

April 8, 2025

In attendance: Fr. Miniatt, Fr. Ed, Fr. Mark, David Streblow, Zachary Doll, Chuck Dineen, Ralph Holzmann, Daniel Hoffman, Nathan Waas, Rick Steger, Michele Burns, Eileen Lifke, Nancy Bogenschneider, Rick Torn, Steve Wessing, Sandy Vercauteren, Kathy Sterr

Absent: Robert Scott, Nick Stoeckel, Tracy Nadolski, Kimberly Cinnamon

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 by Father Miniatt.

Opening prayer: Members recited Vespers, which included prayer intentions.

Introduction of guests: Nicole Glogovsky, Rudy Jaeger, Jodi Murphy, Mary Yauck

With one spelling correction, a motion was made by Chuck Dineen to approve the minutes of the January 28 meeting, seconded by Daniel Hoffman. Minutes approved.

Additions to the agenda included the following topics: a Christian Formation committee, Generations of Life, and Trivia Night at St. Andrew

There was discussion regarding what contact information members are comfortable having on the websites and what they would be willing to share with each other. It was decided to have email information posted on websites for pastoral council members.

Information about the terms of the trustees, specifically where each of them are in their terms, was compiled.

Old Business

We revisited the questions posed at the January meeting; specifically, what things Fr. Miniatt needs to know, what the pastoral council members need to know, and what people in the pews need to know. Nothing was brought forward.

Also revisited was the question of how each of us will respond to the Lord's call to worship God, proclaim the Word, build community, and reach out to others. We each continue to discern the answer to this question.

New Business

Pastor's Report

- Father Miniatt shared some thoughts on beginning to work with Archbishop Grob. The archbishop is very focused on Jesus. Fr. Miniatt is assisting with getting the new presbyteral council up and running and also helping the vicar for clergy office with the ongoing work of his former committee.
- There is one catechumen to be baptized, confirmed and receive first Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil. Other people are in formation.
- The Religious Education department and worship committee are collaborating well.

- The parish-wide Stations and Soup supper event was a success! About 70 people attended, with participants representing all 6 parishes.
- A monthly all-pastoral staff meeting, prayer and lunch has been implemented to help unite the staff.
- School principal Mary Yauck, some teachers, school family parents, and Fr. Miniatt attended the Catholic Schools' dinner.
- A meeting to discuss the expansion of the school was held at Sacred Heart. Another such meeting will be held at the St Mary Lomira site on April 29th to gather feedback from the community. All are welcome to attend.
- Father Ed retires at the end of June. Plans are being laid for a retirement celebration for him, but he plans to help us out regularly. New clergy assignments should be made official by the end of April.

School Report

- Mary Yauck, principal at St. Mary School, spoke with us regarding expanding the current school. Currently there are 62 students, and next year there are 73 enrolled. The school now serves children from childcare age to 3rd grade. Next year, it will also include 4th grade.
- Mary requested suggestions for ways to communicate about the school. Ideas included many of the things already in place: newsletters, bulletins, Facebook, a school website, and parish websites. Sending newsletters to email addresses of the council members was suggested. Also suggested was to have school staff members, when possible, at parish events to mix in with the wider parish community.
- Meetings are beginning to discuss the possibility of creating a middle school for grades 4-8. The first meeting was held at Sacred Heart, and a second meeting is planned for April 29 at 6:00 at St. Mary's in Lomira.

Other New Business

- Two volunteers from the council were requested for the mandatum at Holy Thursday Mass in LeRoy. Nancy Bogenschneider and Daniel Hoffman will do this.
- Cornerstone Awards to recognize outstanding parish members was discussed. Several parishes already do this. Each parish will decide whether they would like to have these.
- Communion distribution was brought forward as a topic of discussion. Formation is needed in this area, as well as more communication. It was suggested to get the Eucharistic Ministers together, share what the church teaches, and go from there.
- Trivia Night at St. Andrew was requested again for this year. It was encouraged.

Committee Reports

- **Finance Council:** It is time to begin the budget process. A new Archdiocesan template will be used. The next Finance Council meetings are on April 22.

- **Prayer and Worship:** A joint meeting was held Feb. 12 on Teams, which worked out well. Holy Week and Easter schedules were worked out.
- **Christian Formation:** The leadership team is looking for at large members who are currently involved in the programs to volunteer for this committee. It would be one committee for all parishes. The leadership team will put these items on their agenda for their next meeting: What is the purpose of this committee? What will they be working on? How will we find members?
- **Generations of Life:** There was discussion on whether to charge for facility use within the cluster. This will be brought up at the next staff meeting.
- **Human Concerns:** There is an upcoming joint meeting scheduled on May 21@6:00 in LeRoy.
- **Implementation committee:** A Managing Director hire is being posted by the Archdiocese to assist Father Miniatt with HR issues, coordinating volunteers and facility issues, helping with the financial piece – a “Make It Happen” person.

Items for next month’s agenda: Having a “Town Hall” meeting

Next Meeting Date: May 13, 2025 @ 6:00 at St. Andrew Hall in LeRoy.

Closing prayer was led by Fr. Miniatt, and meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Sterr