

**Area Catholic Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 10, 2019**

**Call to Order:** Bill Kuesel, 7:10 PM

**Prayer:** Fr. Jimmy

**Role Call:** Present: Bill, Joe, Jon, Mary, Gail, Carol, Darrell, Fr. Ben, Fr. Jimmy, Fr. Mark, Joyce & Kaitlin

**Review of minutes from September 26 meeting:** Darrol made the suggestion that the corrected/approved minutes should be placed in the back of the churches. The Council unanimously agreed that the minutes would go out in the churches once they were approved (two weeks delayed). Joe made a motion to approve the minutes, and Carol seconded that motion.

**Approval of the agenda:** Fr. Ben requested to add the upcoming vocation breakfast to the agenda. Darrell made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the vocation breakfast and Joyce seconded that motion.

**Preparation for information night for Monday, October 14, St. James in**

**Randall:** Fr. Ben proposed that the Council spend most of the meeting discussion this night. The evening would first start with Mass in Randall at St. James. Hospitality will follow with refreshments in the hall following the Mass. Next the Council would hand out note cards that attendees can use to anonymously write down questions. Those cards will be collected at the end of the evening for a short question and answer. Fr. Ben will first present on the purpose and expectations of the ACC including the Bishop's thoughts on the ACC. This will be a good refresher for all who are attending. Fr. Ben will explain that these nights are a time for everyone to come together once a month for prayer, discussion, questions, and feedback. He will also explain the roles of the members, and present what we have learned with the grid that was provided by the diocese (what we have been doing since we started meeting). It was decided that in future meetings we will break up into small groups once we have more solidified topics. Fr. Mark reminded the Council that there is no right way to do these meetings and to understand that we will keep adjusting as we go. Fr. Ben will also explain what we will be doing next including developing a proposal/goals to submit to the Parish Councils, and then submit those to the diocese.

Order of the evening:

- Mass – 7:00pm to 7:30pm (Fr. Jimmy)
- Social – 10 minutes
- Introduction - 30 minutes (Fr. Ben)
- Grid - 5 minutes (Kaitlin)
- Q & A – 20 minutes (Joe)
- Final Prayer (Fr. Mark)

**Updates from Arrowwood Conference about ACC: Fr. Ben:** Fr. Ben discussed the Bishop's comments surrounding the ACC Council at the recent Arrowwood Conference. He mentioned that people are at all stages when it comes to this planning. He insisted that they are not in survival mode. All dioceses in the country are looking at how to move into the future and adapt. Laity involvement is really an opportunity for people to step up and help because we don't have as many people. Collaborations are important, but that probably means changes. We have to do church differently. The diocese is not closing any parishes. It should come from the people to close a church. The Bishop realizes that this planning is a lot of work. There are people in the diocesan office that are willing to help and Council's need to make use of them. Parishes will have a hard time going alone in the future, and this planning will be a way to help each other through the future. Not much direction is needed in this process. He asks the Councils to be open to communal opportunity of priests living together in the same rectory. It will take a while to work all of this planning out with canon law. We are treading new ground in the United States. Canon law applies to the universal church and the United States is only a small section, but that doesn't mean we can't get creative. The diocese would like a rough draft of 3-5 goals for the Council's ACC.

**Restating the vision statement of ACC:** Read by Fr. Ben.

**Revisiting some specific expectations for our ACC:** Read by Fr. Ben. Fr. Ben stated that the Council can come up with a plan for December, but can keep tweaking that plan after it is submitted in order to keep more people in the parishes involved in the process. Fr. Ben suggested that we should plan for summer 2020 *just in case*.

**Handout for future meetings:** Fr. Ben gave out a handout with some topics to look and help the Council come up with some sort of plan. The handout was from

the book *Pastoring Multiple Parishes*. The Council is to take this handout how and use it to help decide what discussion topics should be addressed in the future.

**Update from Communications liaison:** Fr. Ben said that announcements will be made about Monday's Mass and discussion time, and Fr. Ben will be on the radio on Friday morning to discuss the event as well.

**Vocations breakfast:** Will be held on November 3rd in Randall. Posters will be coming out soon and Fr. Ben will be helping to find volunteers.

**Questions of the Committee:** None.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, October 24th at 7 pm at Holy Family

**Adjournment:** Bill Kuesel

**Prayer:** Fr. Jimmy

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Kaitlin Pohland, Assistant Secretary