

Linkage Pastoral Council Meeting

Franklin Hardin Linkage

Monday, February 7, 2022, 6:30 PM

St. Mark Church, Iowa Falls

Minutes

Attendees

Staff: Fr. Kevin Earleywine, Lori Kohart

St. Mary, Ackley: Jeff Frazier, Doug Lindaman, Mike Bonewitz, Scott O'Brien, Dave Keninger

St. Patrick: Terry Carr, Leon Kuehner, Christy Magner, Dwight Peterson, Jim Davies

St. Mark: Cindy Stalzer, Robert Warrington, John Winkels, Tom Atkinson

St. Mary, Eldora: Lorelei Lake, Dan Kadolph, Cecilia Penning, Brian Krause

Fr. Kevin opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes from 11/1/21: The following change was noted by Fr. Kevin: *The new schedule will be in effect until June 30, at which time the priest assignments will be announced by the Archdiocese. Should read the new schedule will be in effect until June 30. The priest assignments will be announced at Easter.*

Mass Time Schedule 2022: Fr. Kevin announced the Archdiocese has committed to retaining 2 priests for our Linkage into the new fiscal year. Comments were given on feedback from parishioners about the new schedule, the majority of them were positive. Fr. Kevin stressed the importance of continued mass counts to help evaluate and monitor the new schedule going forward.

Livestream: Livestreaming of Mass will continue. St. Mark is upgrading the internet wiring to eliminate the issues we have had with buffering. View counts can be monitored while the actual streaming is occurring. Views can also be tracked from our YouTube channel once it is published.

Synodality: The Archdiocese of Dubuque has begun an initiative of in-depth intentional pastoral planning which involves analyzing data, including shifting demographics, number of parishioners, number of parishes, and number of priests. All parishioners have been asked to complete the Archdiocesan Survey, which will help measure parish "vitality," that is, what makes a parish vibrant, alive, and actively serving the Mission of Christ.

Archdiocese One: The restart of this special appeal to help the poor and support the mission of the Church will kick off the weekend of August 13/14, 2022 and wrap up on October 15/16, 2022. There are four main areas of focus: Seminary Education, Retired Priests, Legal Assistance to Immigrants, and upkeep/repairs to the Cathedral of St. Raphael, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Fr. Kevin mentioned that you may make one donation to the cause of your choice, or an overall donation for the four causes.

Parish Lenten Retreat: Fr. Kevin distributed a handout outlining the schedule for the 2022 retreat with Bishop Bob Lombardo and Sister Stephanie and Sister Jess of the Franciscans of the Eucharist of Chicago. The Franciscans will be giving retreat talks at each of the linkage parishes, as well as a Spanish Retreat, Youth Group gathering, and Eucharistic Adoration. Meal options are planned for some of the events. Fr. Kevin mentioned we will need volunteers and coordinators for the meal planning.

Haiti Almsgiving: Fr. Kevin discussed the Lenten "Rice Bowl" proceeds from Ackley, Eldora, Iowa Falls, and Hampton being donated to Fr. Frantz' Diocese of Ft. Liberte, Haiti for 2022. The group was in agreement with this.

Salaries for Staff: Fr. Kevin contacted Lynn Osterhaus (Dubuque Archdiocese) to inquire as to a recommended rate for pay increases for the fiscal year 2022-2023. She explained the Cost of Living/CPI increases were averaging 6-7%. In the past, this rate had been 1-2%. This was presented to the group to use as a guideline when preparing the upcoming budgets.

Pastoral Council Elections: Elections for Ackley, Eldora, Iowa Falls and Hampton Pastoral Councils will be held this year. Bulletin announcements listing the vacant seats at each parish will be published in April, with nominations being taken two weeks after that, and elections being held in May for terms beginning July 1, 2022.

The meeting closed with a prayer and adjourned to individual parish meetings.

Next Meeting: First Monday at 6:30 PM
May 2, 2022