

## Linkage Pastoral Council Meeting

### Franklin Hardin Linkage

Monday, November 1, 2021, 6:30 PM

St. Mark Church, Iowa Falls

## Minutes

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### Attendees

**Staff:** Fr. Kevin Earleywine, Lori Kohart

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

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

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

**St. Mary, Eldora:** Lorelei Lake, Dan Kadolph

*Fr. Kevin opened the meeting with prayer.*

**Mass attendance:** September attendance was reported to the Archdiocese. Fr. Kevin explained the purpose of the reporting is to help define trends and demographics to be used by Jeff Henderson who is new to the Diocese and in charge of Pastoral Planning.

**Donations:** Total collections for Medical Missionaries of Mary and Haiti Relief were reported.

**Synodality:** Fr. Kevin touched on his message from October 24th "Synod and Synodality", which simply means to intentionally consult with and listen to all the faithful of the Church. Fr. Kevin explained that through pastoral councils in the parish, and other various consultative and advisory bodies of the lay faithful we already do this. Pope Frances is asking us to be more intentional about it and to figure out ways to better reach out to and hear from "those on the margins." In the future we will be hearing more about synodality as it is implemented in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

**Archdiocese Statistics:** Handouts were distributed showing data collected from the Archdiocese for 2020-2021. Fr. Kevin pointed out some highlights including the number of active priests (74) serving 165 parrishes.

**Archdiocese One:** A special appeal to help the poor and support the mission of the Church This appeal was put on hold due to the pandemic, but as Fr. Kevin explained it may be launched in the near future. 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 encouraged the group to view the video at <https://archdioceseone.org/>

**Pastoral Planning:** Fr. Kevin distributed a handout on how to better serve the current members of our linkage parishes as well as reaching out to the community to bring more people into the church, best utilizing our current 2 priests. Areas of concern are availability of the priest to council, help the poor, accommodate relationship needs, fulfill administrative duties, and

creatively bring our faith message to the outside. Both long and short term options were discussed by the group. It was determined if each parish had a specific Mass time, the attendance would increase, leading to the decision that the current Mass rotation would stop and a new schedule effective Jan 1, 2022 will be as follows: **Saturdays - 5:00 pm at St. Mark Iowa Falls, Sundays - 8:00 am at St. Mary Ackley, and 8:00 am at St. Mark Iowa Falls, and 10:30 am at St. Mary Eldora and St. Patrick Hampton. Spanish Mass will remain at 5:30 pm on Sunday at St. Patrick Hampton.** The new schedule will be in effect until June 30, at which time the priest assignments will be announced by the Archdiocese.

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

**Next Meetings: First Monday at 6:30 PM**

- February 7, 2022 and May 2, 2022