

**Region XII Pastoral Council Meeting
April 13, 2021**

1. Call to Order/Opening Prayer

Jack Rivetti called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM, and led the group in reciting *The Amazing Parish Prayer*.

2. This Amazing Parish

Council members broke into small groups and discussed reflections on their personal Mass Journal entries.

3. Sunday Gospel Reflections

Jack Rivetti read Luke 24:35-48, and invited those present to share reflections on its meaning. Several petitions were offered for family, friends, and intentions.

4. Roll Call

This being the first Region XII Pastoral Council meeting, Jack Rivetti asked all present to introduce themselves. Fr. Kyle Schnippel provided a brief summary of his background and expressed his excitement about his new assignment as the next Region XII Pastor. Those present included the following:

Council Members Present:

- Fr. John Tonkin (Parochial Administrator)
- Fr. Ambrose Dobrozsi (Parochial Vicar)
- Fr. Kyle Schnippel (Incoming Pastor)
- Kathy Collin
- Jim Geiger
- Josh Kinder
- Jack Rivetti (Chair)
- Suzanne Schiml
- Roy Young (Vice-Chair)

Council Members Absent/Excused:

None

Guests:

- Darren Backstrom (Business Manager and Parish Leadership Team)
- Nick Clune (Youth Minister, Athletic Director)
- Rick Collin (Maintenance)
- Jan Gard (Parishioner, St. Adalbert)
- Ray Girard (Parishioner, St. Peter)
- Laura Joliat (Communications)
- Andrew LaRochelle (Music Director and Parish Leadership Team)
- Marsha Loges (Note-taker)
- Phyllis Wysinski (Parishioner, St. Adalbert)

5. Council Business

a. One Region Pastoral Council Constitution and By-Laws Sub-Committee.

(1) Jack Rivetti indicated that it is necessary to review the Constitution and By-Laws of both the St. Peter Pastoral Council and the Parishes of Old North Dayton (POND) Council, and prepare a new Constitution for the Region XII Pastoral Council. He suggested that a sub-committee be formed to accomplish this, off-line.

(2) Discussion followed, and it was decided that all six Pastoral Council members should participate in the development of the new Constitution, and that work should be accomplished off-line (i.e., separate from the normal Council meetings).

(3) Both existing Constitutions will be made available electronically, and paper copies will be provided to all six members. Prior to the next Council meeting, their assignment is to review those documents and make recommendations for revisions/additions/deletions, culminating in a new Constitution.

b. Posting of Agenda and Minutes. Jack Rivetti said that efforts will be made to keep all Parishioners informed of Region XII Pastoral Council matters.

(1) In the past, the St. Peter Pastoral Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes have been posted electronically via email and on the Region XII web site; the POND Agenda and Minutes have been physically posted in the back of all churches.

(2) Future Region XII Pastoral Council Meetings will be announced at each parish church. The Agenda will be posted physically in the back of each church, and also electronically via email to Council members. The Minutes will be posted electronically on the Region XII web site.

(3) Occasionally, when confidential or sensitive matters are discussed, those details will not be included in the Minutes.

c. Baptism, Sympathy, and New Parishioner Notices. Jack Rivetti inquired about how each parish currently handles acknowledging baptisms, deaths, new parishioners, birthdays, and other occurrences within the parishes.

(1) Discussion revealed that various practices have been observed throughout the different parishes, but it is unclear if those practices still are being followed.

(2) it was suggested that current practices should continue for now. Once each parish determines what actually is being done, a decision can be made whether to continue the various practices at the parish levels, or to develop standard methods to be accomplished at the Region XII level.

d. Ministries and Pastoral Council Listing on Web Site. Roy Young suggested that, after the completion of the Region XII Pastoral Council Constitution and By-Laws, the various Parish Commissions and Ministries should be reviewed.

(1) Consideration can be given to whether the various ministries should remain separate within each parish, or be combined as regional ministries in order to reduce redundancies and increase effectiveness and efficiency. Then the Region XII web site can be updated, to reflect accurate information regarding the actual ministries.

(2) A question was raised about the correct title of the Council – Pastoral Council or Parish Council. Fr. Kyle Schnippel clarified, citing Canon Law 536, which indicates the proper term is Pastoral Council, although in actual practice both terms sometimes are used interchangeably. He shared additional insights about the role of the Pastoral Council and the intention that it operate as a consultative body, considering pastoral issues, reaching consensus, and offering recommendations to the Pastor.

(3) Fr. Kyle informed the Council about the Bicentennial Celebration of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. [See <https://200.catholicaoc.org/>]. He also provided a brief summary of the background and status of the Archdiocese initiative, *Beacons of Light (BoL)*, *Pastoral Planning for Our Third Century*.

- (See summaries of *BoL* in St. Peter Pastoral Council Meeting minutes - Dec. 10, 2020 and Jan. 5, 2021. Also see [Beacons of Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati \(catholicaoc.org\)](https://200.catholicaoc.org/)).
- The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is embarking upon its third century of ministry, while facing the challenge of a declining number of priests. Each parish must foster vital parish life which radiates Christ in all aspects of the lives of all parishioners.
- Currently the archdiocese consists of 100 pastoral regions serving 212 parishes, which are aligned by geographic regions, within deaneries. The *BoL* program focuses on the future, reducing regions, closing and selling properties, and redrawing regional lines. A restructuring to 65 “Families of Parishes” is anticipated and this requires the realignment of priest assignments to parishes within those families.
- To this end, gathering and analysis of meaningful parish metrics was begun in the past November, December, January timeframe. In mid-May, a report of status of the archdiocese is to be presented to Archbishop Schnurr. Findings and recommendations will be presented to all priests around mid-June. By mid-Summer an initial picture of the make-up of the Families of Parishes within the Archdiocese is expected.
- Implementation of the changes is planned to occur over the following two to three years, with completion targeted for 2025.

e. Parishioner Comments. There were a few comments, as follows:

(1) Many parishioners, at each of the churches, commented that the Holy Week, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday services were very inspiring and that the altar and flowers were beautiful.

(2) Many returning parishioners expressed their genuine pleasure at coming back to live church services, after being homebound for so long because of the pandemic.

(3) It was suggested that the Region XII phone options menu be changed, to move the “priest emergency” option higher in the list (perhaps to #2 or #3).

(4) Roy Young pointed out that Pastoral Council members have a duty to get to know all the parishes in the region, and to acknowledge and respect the contributions of each of the parishes. Knowledge of the history and traditions of the parishes can enrich all of Region XII, and that information should not be lost. Brief discussion of ideas followed:

- An effort can be made to research the archives and to collect, document, and preserve stories and memories behind the many valued objects, photos, documents, and past events.
- Interviews with long-time parishioners can be valuable sources of information about the rich history of the parishes.
- Tours of each of the parish campuses can be planned, with knowledgeable parish “docents” who can inform others of the multi-ethnicity, the traditions, the provenance, and the meaning of the artifacts, customs, and treasures of the churches.
- Videos can be created to capture that rich history, and share it with all parishioners.
- Social events can be coordinated and inclusive, bringing together parishioners from all parishes to generate a true “Regional Family”.

(5) Jack Rivetti suggested that the Region XII Pastoral Council continue its monthly meetings throughout the Summer. Together we can identify and consider all the good works performed at each parish/campus, determine which to change or combine, and compile an updated list of all activities throughout the region. The Council members agreed.

(6) It was suggested that the Region XII Bulletins and inserts be sent home with the school children in their student folders, so that families can become more familiar with what is happening within Region XII.

6. Pastor Comments

a. Pastoral Administrator and Pastor Comments. Fr. John Tonkin had no additional remarks, beyond those topics already covered. Fr. Kyle Schnippel said that currently there are no changes to the existing parish restrictions due to the pandemic, and he does not foresee a change in the status of Sunday Mass obligations before September.

b. Business Manager items. Darren Backstrom reported the following:

(1) There still are a few issues ongoing regarding final sale of the St. Stephen Parish property.

(2) The final Mass at St. Adalbert Parish is scheduled for May 2, and Fr. John Tonkin will officiate. A luncheon featuring traditional Polish foods and desserts will be held following the Mass, at the Polish Club.

6. Closing Prayer

There being no further business, Jack Rivetti offered a closing prayer.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next meeting is **Tuesday, May 4**, at 7 PM, in the St. Peter Parish Ries Center.

v/r, -mjl- :-)