

February 20, 2025

ABVM, Viroqua Pastoral Council Minutes

Present: Cathy, Melanie, Pat Peterson, Joyce, Dennis, Pat Obernberger, Kris Brueggen, Phyllis Krause

Opening Prayer, in the chapel

Old Business

- Renovation Updates – renovations with the removal of the Blessed Sacrament to the side chapel on February 19, then with stripping the sanctuary on February 20. The projected schedule runs through the next eight weeks, with material acquisition being the potential sticking point.

New Business

- Homebound Ministry Update – Some fifteen people expressed interest, and after info sessions ten have committed to serve in homebound and facility ministry (serving Vernon Manor, Vernon Acres, Creamery Creek, Maplewood, Maple Oaks, Norseland, Nordic Village, and a handful of homes).
- Ash Wednesday Schedule – After consultation with the Coon Valley Pastoral Council, the decision is made to have a 7 AM communion service and 12:10 Mass in Viroqua and a 5:15 Mass in Coon Valley. The discussion also included the possibility of a standard 12:10 daily Mass, with that being well attended on solemnities. More to discuss in that regard, without urgency.
- Pat Obernberger and Loann Frie are putting together a Lenten drive to support the food pantry.

Discussion on Pastoral Council Membership

- Norms for Consultation in the Parish and Deanery – Fr. Joe shared the current diocesan document providing guidelines for parish councils

(among other things), dated 1985. These norms include guidelines on electing and appointing new council members, indicating a preferred mix of both.

- Fr. Joe's vision for pastoral council
 - Whereas the Finance Committee handles the parish's temporal resources and administration, the Pastoral Council serves the necessary spiritual role of responding to the Holy Spirit and knowing the people of the parish. To this end, Fr. Joe is looking for three chief characteristics in Pastoral Councilors:
 1. A representation of the parish broadly, between age, sex, family, gifts, and special interest
 2. Initiative to carry out parish initiatives and representation of pastoral ministries
 3. An openness to the Holy Spirit, cultivated through regular prayer (half hour daily) and engagement with formation materials
- Retiring members, Process for electing/nominating new members
 - After discussion, we will blend election by peer and self-nomination and appointment by the pastor. Cathy Poshepny, Kris Brueggen, and Phyllis Krause will assist Fr. Joe in this.

Next Meeting: TBD, joined with Coon Valley's PC for a potluck in April-May.

Closing Prayer