

Highlights

Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting

May, 2006

According to Church law (Canon 511),

“In each diocese, to the extent that pastoral circumstances recommend it, a pastoral council is to be established whose responsibility it is to investigate under the authority of the bishop all those things which pertain to pastoral works, to ponder them and to propose practical conclusions about them.”

Membership of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is comprised of representatives from diocesan committees and councils, and two representatives from each region.

May Meeting Agenda

- The schedule and length of meetings was reviewed. There will be four meetings scheduled instead of five – October, December, March, and May – and the meeting length will be reduced from five hours to three. Meetings will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., concluding with lunch.
- The Worship Committee was directed to prepare a brochure on the guidelines and practices for Catholic funerals. This information is especially needed for funeral homes, newspapers, and the faithful. A draft will be presented to the Priests’ Council and the Diocesan Pastoral Council for review.
- A report on the Diocesan Celebration of Marriage and Families indicated that preparations are nearly completed for the October 1, 2006 event.
- Tom Holzer, Diocesan Director of Finance, presented the budget for the fiscal year of 2006-2007. The budget was already recommended for approval by the Finance Council and Priests’ Council. The Diocesan Pastoral Council affirmed their recommendations.
- Bishop Nienstedt has asked the Council to investigate and assess the needs for elderly ministry in the Diocese. The discussion will continue at the next meeting focusing on demographic and parish information.
- The events for the 50th anniversary observance were reviewed. A booklet describing the events will be made available to pastoral leaders and groups that will be involved with the preparation.
- The Council also reviewed Diocesan Staff Goals and Objectives, discussed a possible format for an annual report on the Parish Self-Studies, and suggested themes and outcomes for the evangelization process.
- For enrichment, the video of Fr. Sammie Maletta’s presentation on the importance of a Diocesan Ministries Appeal was viewed. The presentation was part of the spring Pastoral Leader Days.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, October 7, 2006, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., followed by lunch.