

MEETING MINUTES

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL (DPC)

April 5, 2025
Salle Baudoux,
Archdiocesan Centre
151 de la cathédrale,
Winnipeg, MB

PARTICIPANTS

Archbishop LeGatt; Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis (Chair of the Committee for the Renewal & Growth of Parish Pastoral Councils; Chair of the Diocesan Pastoral Council); **James Kautz** (Director of Pastoral Services); **Grace Dumont** (Admin. Assistant for Pastoral Services); **Fr. Armand LeGal** (Live Translator); **Alesa Sutherland, Raynald Dupuis** (R&G Committee); **Fr. Chrys Agu, Joseph Pham, Frances Everett** (Christ the King); **Annette Young** (Holland Catholic Centre); **Marie-B. Thobi** (Holy Cross); **Winnie Vugampore** (Holy Redeemer); **Nadine Fetherston** (Mary Mother of the Church); **Roland Simard** (Notre Dame du Lac); **Pauline Einfeld, Katherine Wingate** (Notre Dame du Laus); **Rigoberto De Paz** (Nuestra Señora de la Asunción); **Thérèse Dorge** (Ste. Agathe); **Fr. Kevin N. Lereh** (Ste. Anne-des-Chênes); **Fr. Serge Buissé, Vivianne Sarrasin-Lilke, Lisa Perrin** (St. Joachim); **Gisèle Maynard** (St. Malo); **Yvonne Romaniuk** (Notre Dame de Lorette); **Fr. Gregory Djiba** (St. Adolphe & Île-des-Chênes); **Fr. Gabriel Lévesque** (Ste. Agathe & La Salle); **Denis Foidart** (St. Pierre); **Teresia Yavala, Marlon Cayona, Christine Hona-Cayona, John Ross Catibog**, (St. John the Evangelist); **Ann Blonski, Gisèle Gratton** (St. Adolphe); **Doreen Howe, Fr. Chukwuemeka Okafor** (St. Bernadette); **Hector Gaglo** (St. Kizito); **Chris Kiazzyk, Shauna Neiser** (St. Mary); **Claudette Dorge, Jacqueline Ratte Kohut** (St. Emile); **Ivy Fraser, Patrick Mills** (St. Francis of Assisi); **Beata Ozga, Veronica Roth** (St. Joseph the Worker); **Francis Simard** (St. Micheal).

Online:

Fr. Shubin Bosco, Jason Blaize (Christ Our Saviour); **Karen Klazyk Kaatz** (Notre Dame du Lac); **Lorraine Le Moulec** (Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes); **John Gavloski** (Our Lady of Mount Carmel); **Karle Solomon, Jason Lopez, Rose Vie Norley** (St. John the Evangelist); **Richard Warsza** (St. Alphonsus); **Deb Pfrimmer** (St. Hyacinthe); **Fr. Brian Trueman, Teresita Chiarella** (St. Timothy);

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Read by Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis.

WELCOME

Welcome to this meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council! The goal for this meeting is to discuss the new “Communication” Pillar, to share and listen to each others’ challenges and successes, and to build parish connections.

HOUSEHOLDS OF FAITH

Presented by James Kautz. Gospel reading for Sunday April 6.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Agenda:

New Addition (Proposed by Katherine Wingate): Holy Days of Obligation

Moved by: Francis Simard

Seconded by: Claudette Dorge

English Minutes:

Moved as presented by: Claudette Dorge

Seconded by: Ivy Fraser

French Minutes:

Moved as presented by: Denis Foidart

Seconded by: Lisa Perrin

TABLE DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION 1

The group split into table groups to discuss the following topic: ***In a healthy parish, what does communication look like?***

Table groups each presented their answers in 2min segments.

Presentations: We saw many comments on the importance of communicating with the parish priest. It's also important to keep the PFC informed and to be informed of their doings, and above all to keep parishioners in the loop through various methods such as face-to-face communication and invitation, electronic methods (email, website, social media, etc.), and physical announcements like bulletins and posters. Minutes of the PPC should be shared with parishioners as well, and a list of PPC contacts provided, for more complete transparency. Throughout these communications, the ideal PPC is aware of how to adjust their message based on who they are speaking to. It's important to have a means of getting constant feedback as well, not only from PPC members but from parishioners (suggestion box, etc.)

'PPC IMPLEMENTATION AT ST. ADOLPHE' PRESENTED BY GISEÈLE GRATTON (FRANCAIS)

Gisèle shared about what communication looks like in the St. Adolphe Parish. She explained that though this parish is designated 'bilingual', there are really two different communities

within it, one French, one English, each with their own culture, demographic and needs. Communication is important between two such communities, but it is also important to recognize their differences and the fact that the same message will need to be communicated differently to each, with different nuances based on culture and language.

TABLE DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION 2

The group split into table groups to discuss the following topic: ***What makes effective communication difficult?***

Table groups each presented their answers in 1min segments.

Presentations: Comments highlighted the lack of volunteers, as well as a lack of clear leadership and of consistency and clarity in communication methods, all of which are roadblocks to effective communication. A lack of resources for communication was also mentioned, and several possible barriers to understanding were brought up, such as difficulty with technology, language barriers, and communication differences between age groups, cultures, and personal levels of faith. It can also be difficult to communicate well if people don't feel respected, and if the PPC isn't open to new ideas. It's possible that Members and parishioners alike might not know how to bring something up, or might doubt that their opinion will be heard. They could even feel a fear of judgement which prevents them from expressing opinions. Other difficulties could include delays in decision-making and responding, and a lack of succession planning for future PPC members.

TABLE DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION 3

The group split into table groups to discuss the following topic: ***What communication successes would you like to share about your parish?***

Table groups each presented their answers briefly.

Presentations: Each group mentioned various methods of communication that have worked well in their own parishes, such as surveys, pictorial directories, PowerPoint and social media announcements, paper bulletins, email newsletters, and suggestion boxes. There was mention of having a competent website team, and the difference this can make in communication success. It was also noted that young adults have been becoming more involved via social media especially. Priest involvement in parish activities and community life also facilitates communication, as well as being sure to have a consistent style and format when relaying messages.

Various successful parish events were also mentioned, such as movie nights, youth groups, men and women's sessions, adoration nights, retreats, picnics, choir, Children's Liturgy and

more. Parishes have also had success in gaining parishioner support through fundraising events like soup lunches and fall suppers. Communication within parishes is increased when the community is welcoming and shows hospitality. This can also include special after-mass blessings for certain people, fellowship after mass, and encouragement to donate and support events. To help PPC members learn more about their communication roles, some parishes have even had orientation weekends for new members, or hosted 'ministry fairs'.

'THE COMMUNICATION PILLAR' PRESENTED BY PAULETTE VIELFAURE DUPUIS

Paulette presented some practical information about implementing the Communication Pillar in a parish.

Participants were asked to consult the PPC organization chart and fill in the blank side with ministries that exist in their parish. This handout, as well as an outline of the talk, are available as attachments in the Minutes email.

'JUBILEE YEAR' PRESENTED BY JAMES KAUTZ

James talked about Jubilee Sites, which have been designated for the Jubilee Year as sites of pilgrimage. A devout visit/pilgrimage to one of these sites can contribute to a Jubilee indulgence (To learn more about indulgences in the Jubilee Year, click here: <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Catechetical-Resource-on-Plenary-Indulgences-during-the-Jubilee-Year.pdf>)

An indulgence wipes clean the temporal consequences of our sins. In a Jubilee Year, you can get two indulgences a day if the second is offered for a soul in purgatory. This is offered to us as an example of God's infinite grace and mercy towards us. PPCs are encouraged to bring the spirit of the Jubilee Year into their home parishes, by including Jubilee events (pilgrimages, etc.) in their PPC planning.

PPC COMMISSIONING

Paulette mentioned that a good way to get your parish involved would be to hold a commissioning of the PPC on a Sunday:

Celebration of Recognition/Commissioning of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):

<https://www.archsaintboniface.ca/media/Elite-Contacts-Admin-Centre-pastorale/Renewal-/R--G-recognition-of-new-PPC.pdf>

Also: See page 132 in the CCCB ritual book entitled “Celebrations of Installation and Recognition.” This ritual book can be purchased from CCCB Publications at this link:

<https://cccb.stjoseph.com/Shopping/ProductView/17796-celebrations-of-installation-and-recogn>

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Question from Katherine Wingate (Notre Dame du Laus): How do different parishes celebrate the Holy Days of Obligation? She notices that many Holy Days of Obligation are falling to the side in her home parish and being overlooked.

The Archbishop clarified the two Holy Days of Obligation decided on by CCCB: Mary Mother of the Church (New Years) and Christmas.

He stated that we should celebrate solemnities on the day of if possible, and recall the mystery being celebrated in some way during the Sunday mass as well, so as not to allow them to be overlooked or forgotten.

CONCLUSION AND FINAL BLESSING

The Archbishop thanks everyone for attending, and offers to provide a tour of the building and its history the next time that the DPC is held here.

He discusses the spirit of synodality and how it reflects and serves the mission of Christ, and thanks all attendants for being a part of it.

May God bless you all!