

GRACE Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2022

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Diocese of Green Bay, Chancery, St. Francis Xavier Conference Room

Members present: Bishop David Ricken, Fr. John Girotti, Todd Blahnik, Fr. James Baraniak, O.Praem., Fr. Patrick Beno, Sr. Marla Clercx, ANG, Fr. Andrew Cribben, O.Praem., Fr. Antonio de los Santos, Deacon Kevin DeCleene, Fr. William Hoffman, Fr. Michael Ingold, Fr. Robert Kabat, Fr. Jose Lopez Vargas, Fr. James Lucas, Abbot Gary Neville, Deacon Jeff Prickette, Fr. Tom Reynebeau, Fr. Mathew Simonar, Deacon Paul Umentum, Fr. Mark Vander Steeg

Others present: Fr. Michael Brennan, O.Praem., Kim Desotell, Dean Gerondale, Lori Ashmann-Recorder

Members not present: Fr. Brian Belongia, Bill Micksch, Marv Wall

- Call to Order and Opening Prayer: Bishop Ricken called the meeting to order with an opening prayer.
- Agenda Review and Approval: Motion made by Fr. Vander Steeg and second by Fr. Kabat to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Fr. Reynebeau and seconded by Fr. Lucas to approve the December 1, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
- Opening Remarks: Bishop Ricken provided opening remarks extending gratitude and acknowledgement for the extent of work and contributions being made on the important journey to support the discipleship movement for the next generation. There are opportunities to connect and engage families to Mass and the parish verification process is an important conversation tool to listen and engage our audience.
- Office of Catholic Schools Update: Todd Blahnik reported that this year has resulted in the earliest year of all principals being hired. Structure changes are occurring at the Office of Catholic Schools and Associate Superintendent hires are not yet announced. Dean Gerondale is busy with the schools and he was thanked for work on the investment model. Discussion followed regarding Mass attendance counts.
- GRACE President's Report: Kim Desotell presented her report highlighting the following:
 - Teacher Excellence Press Release: The May 4, 2022 press release was shared with the Board: "GRACE receives significant anonymous donation to 'Invest in Teacher Excellence'". Discussion followed reviewing the elements of Top Teacher Talent Awards and Master's Degree Path Program.
 - Enrollment: To date 2022-23 enrollment statistics were reviewed. Enrollment is steady in addition to Choice participation. Discussion followed regarding eligibility, socioeconomic factors and retention.
 - Principal Hire: Ms. Dana Vance has been hired as the St. John the Baptist School principal. Ms. Vance's credentials and experience were shared. Former school principal, Drew Mulloy, will be assuming the GRACE Superintendent role effective July 1, 2022.
- GRACE Board of Trustees Report: Kim Desotell reported on behalf of Bill Micksch:
 - Board of Trustees and Committee Membership: The roster of Trustees and members of the Committees to the Board was presented. Motion made by Fr. Kabat and seconded by Fr. Vander Steeg to approve the roster as presented with a correction to Catholic Identity Committee (Katie Summers removed). Motion carried.

- Parish Verification Form: The new verification process continues for this enrollment season. A summary of Parish Verification Forms processed as of May 3, 2022 was presented. Bishop Ricken requested feedback from the Directors on how conversations with families have gone; Directors shared experiences and discussion followed. Dialogue is a blessing and families know they are welcome and there is a sense of belonging. Directors were reminded that tuition payment plans begin July 1, 2022 at which time families who may not have pursued verification to receive the Active Parishioner rate of tuition will do so. Payment plans will take place as scheduled with verifications continuing to be accepted with adjustments applied to the family's future account balance. Directors consented that the parish verification process using the Parish Verification Form is to continue each year.
- GRACE Pastor and Pastoral Leader Working Group: Fr. Kabat provided an update on the continued work of the group and presented the Summary Change GRACE Investment After Transition Plan dated April 21, 2022. Dean Gerondale met with the business managers in February and March. A four-year transition model has been delineated involving a revenue/fixed costs formula. Dean Gerondale elaborated on initiatives to manage balanced parish budgets such as a purchasing consortium. Discussion followed. Motion made by Fr. Kabat and seconded by Abbot Neville to approve the model and process as presented; not the numbers which will be finalized. The collaboration of the parishes is significant, and appreciation extended to Fr. Kabat, Dean Gerondale and the entire team. The conversations have been open and productive. Gerry Faller and Dean Gerondale will meet to strategize next steps. Bishop Ricken acknowledged the efforts, although not perfect, but improving. Motion carried; 1 abstention-Sr. Clercx.
- Financial Report:
 - Current Year 2021-22: Financials through February 28, 2022 were presented and reviewed. Finances are solid due to increased enrollment, parish support and other revenue sources for additional expenses.
 - Proposed Budget 2022-23: Gerry Faller presented the 2022-23 Budget Snapshot and Executive Summary. Discussion followed regarding elements of a rent increase, enrollment growth, tuition increase and tuition rates (standard vs. active parishioner) and voucher amounts.. Gerry Faller reviewed the creation of a grant program to support parishes in hardship and for facility enhancements, ongoing RFP process for investments and PPE status. Motion made by Fr. Kabat and seconded by Fr. Reynebeau to approve the 2022-23 Budget and GRACE Rent Schedule as presented. Motion carried.
- Other:
 - Todd Blahnik reported that St. Patrick's Oratory is becoming a normalized parish within the Diocese of Green Bay effective July 1, 2022 and wishes to join GRACE as an affiliated parish. Fr. Girotti reviewed the Institute of Christ the King and the involvement of GRACE families and students with the Oratory. The Oratory has contributed to GRACE in the past and upon official designation will be assumed into the parish investment model on a sliding schedule as outlined on the previously reviewed Summary Change GRACE Investment After Transition Plan. Barry Metzentine is working with Fr. de los Santos on the transition involving the Quad Parishes. Motion made by Deacon Prickette and seconded by Fr. Vander Steeg to accept St. Patrick's Oratory as a GRACE parish and member of the Board of Directors. Motion carried. Discussion followed regarding the possible pathway for other parishes to join and discussion followed.
 - Fr. Reynebeau proposed consideration of a unified financial model for Notre Dame Academy and GRACE. Discussion followed. NDA is a destination high school for GRACE graduates.
 - Fr. Lopez Vargas expressed needs for spiritually support and moving Catholic identity forward. Bishop Ricken acknowledge Fr. Lopez Vargas for his leadership and forthcoming support through placement of three nuns at Ss. Peter and Paul. Todd Blahnik reviewed progress with ongoing faith formation including, in part, use of Franciscan at Home. Discussion followed

regarding faith germination among teachers and the Faith Focus Area of GRACE's Strategic Plan.

- The audience for the upcoming May 10, 2022 State of the Diocese was clarified to be for the parishes and parish ministries. A presentation in fall is anticipated for a larger audience. There is a plan for more regular Diocese updates of this nature.
- Bishop Ricken reviewed the upcoming Feast of Corpus Christi Sunday involving a Eucharistic Procession from the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral to St. Mary of the Angels Church to launch the National Eucharistic Revival which aligns with the discipleship pathway. The plan is for each parish to conduct a procession next year.
- Bishop Ricken's Closing Remarks: Bishop Ricken encouraged movement to spiritually through understanding of the Mass: invite, understand, appreciate. The Mass is the presence of Christ – pray the Mass; worship Jesus.
- Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Next meeting: November 30, 2022