

**Saint John the Baptist –
Pastoral Outreach Commission
Monthly Meeting Agenda / Minutes**

Date:	April 17, 2018	Recorder:	Leonard H.	Chair:	Matt G
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Member/Attendee	Present	Member/Attendee	Present
Matt G	Y	Peter W	Y
Leonard H	Y	Deacon Rod Palmer	Y
Jeanne S * (PLC Rep)	Y	Kathleen S	Y
Margaret N	N	Jane H	Y
		Naomi H (Guest)	Y
		John H (Guest)	Y

Agenda

- I. Dinner 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm
- II. Prayer 6:05pm – 6:30 pm
- III. Meeting 6:35 pm – 7:40 pm

Opening Prayer: Come Holy Spirit

1-Naomi H – Collection Information

Teri Shea forwarded an email from Naomi Hard relating to an announcement she wants to put in the church bulletin thanking parishioners for donating to the Liberian Catholic parish. Teri asked if the POC had approved the collection. It sounds like the donations were made before we completed our framework for evaluating requests. Was anyone aware of this specific project by Naomi? We should discuss how to respond to Teri.

Action: After review, the POC felt the bulletin announcement’s theme was a “thank you” for past support and recommended the announcement be published without further discussion.

Naomi presented a report on her recent March 2018 12-day visit to Liberia and what the donations are being used for. During her visit, she met with Archbishop Lewis, who gave his enthusiastic endorsements for her efforts. *See attachment A for more details.*

2-Commission Mission Statement

Larry V., Parish Leadership Commission Chair, has asked the each commission provide its mission statement for inclusion in the PLC by-laws. Our commission has drafted and revised its mission statement at least twice in the last four years. Let’s check our files/stacks to see if we can locate it so we don’t have to do it all over again.

Action: Leonard will check emails and files on home PC to see if Mission Statement can be found. Mike S. (POC Chairperson 2017) and Michelle C. (Recorder 2017) will also be contacted to see if they have a copy.

3-Holy Land Continued – John H

Following up on the issue raised by Leonard, Father Skluzacek asked that we invite John H to our meeting to discuss his idea about the Archdiocese adopting a parish in the Holy Land. He suggests that once a year would could bring someone from the adopted parish to St. John’s to present a story about the struggles they face and have a special 2nd collection during September to support that parish and its families.

Action: John presented several ideas on how we can support parishes in the Holy Land.

- 1) Each Archdiocese in the USA selects one Holy Land parish to support
- 2) St. Paul/Mpls Archdiocese could be the “Pilot” and select a parish to support; St. Johns could lead the effort in developing a relationship and mission statement.

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- 3) Would there be a way to involve our youth in this effort? Possibly a program after confirmation where they can study about the Holy Land parishes and become involved in fundraising; possibly leading up to a pilgrimage to the Holy Land once they turn 18.

It was recommended to John that he form a small team of 3-5 people to develop a plan and mission statement for the proposed ministry. Several existing organizations were noted for John to contact:

- Office of Foreign Missions
- Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher
- Franciscans – Brothers of Peace

John will contact Fr. Skluzacek about recent pilgrims to see if any are interested being on the team. Leonard H. and Jeanne S. expressed interest in being on the team.

5-Blue Sky

Foreign Missions: A “communication” memo should be created to send to each of the current foreign missions notifying them of the new policy regarding fundraising and other activity, once approved by the PLC.

- Catholic Mission Company – Steve F.
- Building Bridges Liberia – Naomi H.
- Friends of the Poor – Sister Rose
- Partners4Hope – Molly D.

The goal is to send the communication by the of this year’s commission meetings (June 2018).

Next Meeting: May 15th

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Attachment A – Building Bridges Liberia Report

Building Bridges Liberia 2831 Forest Dale Road, New Brighton, MN 55112 612-616-7907

Greetings, friends! I have much to be thankful for! My 12-day visit to Liberia in March 2018 was a marvelous success. Here is a partial list of what was accomplished in such a short time:

Vision Grace Ministries – site visits to 5 schools in Kakata and Totota which I support (pay monthly salaries for 16 teachers/staff, donate supplies, pay for building renovations); at each site, I offered words of encouragement to parents, students, teachers and community leaders; spoke at a 3-day teacher/lay leader conference (my topic: Moses & Leadership Development); discussed with Principal future site development (new latrines, library renovation, purchase of adjacent land for expansion); donated funds for new soccer uniforms.



Great Commission Global – site visit to K-Gr 9 school (I paid 1/3 of their salaries last year) and income-generating farm; learned how to set up & run a Liberian farm (rubber trees, palm oil trees, charcoal, and more) to bring in revenue to support a ministry; donated farm tools and funds for farm vehicle repair.

St. Christopher Catholic Church and School – Attended Masses for two weekends and daily Mass/Adoration, Legion of Mary, and Stations of Cross; submitted donations of 110+ Rosary bead sets, 35+ Catholic books &



Bibles and icon of Christ; made a financial donation; met with the Parish Pastoral Council about the future St. Martin de Porres Catholic Community Center; Fr. Paul Sobande (Parochial Vicar) [pictured on the left] thanked me for the past donation of the printer/copier and requested more toner cartridges for it.



St. Martin de Porres Community Center – Fr. Emmanuel Mbuk and I met with Archbishop Lewis Zeigler in Monrovia and received his enthusiastic endorsement; 3 days later, Archbishop Zeigler visited Kakata and walked all over the land with Fr. Mbuk, a Parish Council Member and I to strategize; I made a sizeable donation to the building fund; Fr. Mbuk and I met with the architect to discuss specific details of the future Catholic Community Center.



Archbishop Zeigler visits St. Christopher Parish School and greets students



Archbishop Zeigler, Fr. Mbuk, a Parish Council Member, and Naomi tour building site



Parish Pastoral Council Meeting; discussed the St. Martin de Porres Catholic Center