

Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
Archdiocesan Pastoral Council

MINUTES of September 10, 2016
The Pastoral Center, Portland

2013-2016 Members Present: Archbishop Alexander K. Sample and Members: Bishop Peter Smith, Clint Bentz, Dawn Crow, Alicia Garcia, Dcn. Jerry Giger, Terri Keefer, Frank Rego, Chris Rose, Kathy Sabel, Stephanie Thompson, Michael Whitney, and Paul Wilson.

Staff Present: Msgr. Chuck Lienert, Todd Cooper, Anne Marie Van Dyke

2013-2016 Members Absent: Jonathan French (E), Fr. John Henderson (E), Fr. Bill Moisant (E), Sr. Marcia Ternes, FSE (E). (E) = Excused. Katia Ariceaga, Maria Marquez, Thanh Huu Tran, Isabel Vela.

Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Sample at 9:30 a.m. in the Pastoral Center Chapel. The sixty-fifth meeting of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) opened at 10:25 a.m. with a welcome by Chair Clint Bentz. Mr Bentz asked those present to set a date for the joint meeting with the new and outgoing members. After discussion, the meeting date was set as **January 14, 2017 at the Pastoral Center**. The agenda was reviewed and a presentation by the Director of Faith Formation, Rolando Moreno was added to the agenda as the first order of business. The minutes of the May 14, 2016 meeting of the APC were approved as submitted.

APC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Council chair, Clint Bentz, reported that The APC Executive Committee met to develop the agenda for this meeting and to draft the APC evaluation form. [Ed. note: Clint Bentz and Stephanie Thompson, the chair and the vice chair of the council, respectively, serve on the executive committee, along with Archbishop Sample, president, and Msgr. Lienert, executive staff.] The executive committee also discussed their expectations of the upcoming Archdiocesan Pastoral Assembly (APA). The committee suggests the council reflect on three questions regarding the assembly: 1. What do we want to look back on three years from now?, 2. What do we want to do in the diocese? 3. What are our specific pastoral priorities – what do we move on and what is the archdiocesan role, the parish role, and the vicariate role? The pastoral council will take the input and prepare the Pastoral Plan for the diocese, the parishes, and the vicariates.

ROLANDO MORENO

Rolando Moreno introduced himself to the council as the Director of Faith Formation for the diocese. He started in the position December 9, 2015. Mr. Moreno has been married for twelve years and is the father of five children, the youngest being six months old. He came from Michigan to St. Joseph Parish in Salem, where he was the pastoral associate from 2005 – 2014.

He then taught for a year and a quarter at Central Catholic High School. Mr. Moreno took this responsibility seriously and as an opportunity to grow in service to the archdiocese and to the bishops. When asked about his academic background, he told the council that from 1998-2003, he studied philosophy and theology at Franciscan University at Steubenville, Ohio. He received a Masters in Theology from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute in Washington D.C.

At St. Joseph Parish, Mr. Moreno oversaw the RCIA, Adult Formation, and baptismal preparation programs and was a liaison to the Archdiocesan Marriage Tribunal. He is a catechist at heart and loves to teach and train. Mr. Moreno stated that the primary mission of his office is to form those who do the formation and to serve those out in the field on the front-lines. He wants to meet the catechists, listen to them and find out their needs. There are 124 parishes and they all have faith leaders and volunteers. His goal is to establish a good rapport with them, The Faith Formation Office (formerly known as Religious Education) has been without a Director for two years. To re-establish connections, Mr. Moreno has visited parishes and vicariates. Recently he helped with the RCIA training at St. Matthew Parish in Hillsboro. He believes it is important to pay attention to the people in the field. Prayer and reflection opportunities are important and the archdiocese should take a leadership role in this.

Upon being hired, one of the first events Mr. Moreno directed was an Day Retreat last April with 30 faith leaders and catechists. The day received a good response and he will try to establish an annual overnight retreat. Dates have just been finalized for this to happen in March 2017 and Mr. Moreno will make sure to put this on the archdiocesan website.

Mr. Moreno views those entrusted with faith formation as disciples and believes that the diocese has an obligation to make sure they are well formed in their faith. There was a Faith Formation Leaders Inservice for pastoral associates, DREs, Youth Ministers and those involved in adult faith formation that was attended by over 100 people. There will be a workshop April 22nd and 23rd, 2017 that will stress a return to foundational reasons for catechesis. This will be a calling to the holiness of life.

The annual Catechetical Conference will be in October this year and was scheduled before Mr. Moreno's hire as director so he had no input in the venue. The scope of the conference has been broadened to help attendees examine their role as catechist and evangelist. Last year's conference had an attendance of about 440 participants, with over 300 of them Hispanic. This year that turnout will be reflected in the workshops; there will be 18 English workshops, 20 Hispanic workshops, 2 Vietnamese workshops. The conference will have four keynote presentations and Mass celebrated by Archbishop Sample.

Mr. Moreno hopes the conference will re-awaken participants relationship with the Lord and inspire them to live whole-heartedly. The Church recognizes that parents are the first catechists for their children and there will be workshops specifically for parents. Sister Mary Michael Fox, O.P. of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation of Nashville, Tennessee will make a

presentation on “Praying With the Family”. There will be two English and two Spanish workshops based on this theme.

With the Pastoral Center re-organization, the Ministry Formation Program now comes under the auspices of the Director of Faith Formation. Mr. Moreno has put the certificate formation program ‘on hold’ for the coming year. This will give him time to form a new advisory team and to implement a new mission and a new vision into the program. The Institute will be re-shaped to give instructions and skill sets to the students as well as local spiritual and intellectual information. The ‘hold year’ will provide time to find instructors to implement that mission and vision. The goal is next fall to roll out new foundational certificates. There will also be a Hispanic ministry formation program. Mr. Moreno wants to listen to the Hispanic leadership to help assess their particular needs in the formation program.

In thanking Rolando Moreno for his presentation, Archbishop Sample noted that Mr. Moreno has begun great work but he is open to what comes out of the APC for direction. Archbishop Sample was also pleased that Mr. Moreno mentioned he is here to serve the people in the parishes as Archbishop’s vision is for pastoral center staff to be of service to the “people on the front lines.”

In response to need expressed for the South Coast vicariate, Mr. Moreno said that he will try to visit the South Coast vicariate. He is aware the need is great there and has already taken steps to strengthen his database and fill some gaps in it so that they will receive notification of opportunities presented by the archdiocese. Dawn Crow reiterated that Mr. Moreno should not wait to hear from the South Coast vicariate, as outreach to it is essential. Msgr. Lienert suggested that webinars are a means of outreach to communities distant from Portland and Mr. Moreno agreed, saying we are using and increasing our use of technology.

Clint Bentz said the problem with parents being the primary teachers of the faith to their children is that most parents have not been catechized themselves. Hopefully, we can record workshops from the Catechetical Conference and stream or send them out to the parishes. There would be an issue with some of the keynoters being independent and copyright issues on their presentations but we can work on it.

Archbishop Sample agreed that we need to move forcefully to advance the benefits of technology to reach all corners of Oregon. In Marquette, his previous diocese, webinars were presented throughout that diocese through an agreement with the hospital system to use their facilities. We could use the Providence hospital system here.

Mr. Moreno would like to see the Catechetical Conference held at a mid-state location to encourage participation from the southern parts of the state. He is hoping to hold a retreat in the south at St. Rita Retreat Center and also have a retreat in Spanish.

Mr. Moreno thanked the council for its time and attention and requested prayers for himself and the Office of Faith Formation.

APC FORMATION

Msgr. Charles Lienert gave a presentation on *Laudato Si*, Chapter 4. Before he began his review of Chapter 4, Msgr. Lienert stated that Chapters 5 and 6 *Laudato Si* concerned practical things on the international, national and local level and was well worth the read. Chapter 6 discusses ecological education and spirituality and notes the need for personal conversion. Msgr. Lienert stressed that if you read nothing else in *Laudato Si*, you need to read Chapter 6.

Chapter 4 of *Laudato Si* contains the heart of the Pope's vision. It speaks to the inter-connection of everything and discusses models of development, means of production, consumerism and studies the connection between research and broad eco-systems. Healthy institutions are essential to a healthy environment.

The second point that Chapter 4 addresses concerns cultural ecology; humans need a sense of belonging, a sense of place. Often ecologists ignore the local culture. This observation was noted by Albert Hersdman, an economist in the 1940's who objected to the era's concept of a Master Plan that was right for all. We need to have sensitivity to the indigenous culture and be respectful to that culture in the environment.

Ecology in our daily life either benefits or impairs our growth. People can overcome their poor environment by the environment inside their home, but mostly by relationships. Human ecology implies relationship between people. We cannot have a healthy environment without distributive justice. Cities should have open spaces, public transportation and rural communities often need the services only available in cities. We must lift up the poor. The Common Good must be the basis of our policies. There are basic rights of every human that include:

1. Each human has a right to develop,
2. Welfare of society and group in society is important, especially the family,
3. Social stability, peace, and security depend on distributive justice, justice for everyone, including the poorest among us and the outcasts. There must also be justice between the generations. The environment is on loan to each generation and must be handed onto the next. We need to be aware of the effect of the environment on the future.

We are living in a rampant individualistic and self-centered culture that promotes wasteful consumption. We must develop an integrated vision of the local environment, distributive justice, and the health of nature.

The 6th chapter of *Laudato Si* challenges us to live a simpler lifestyle. Discussion followed Msgr. Lienert's presentation.

REPORTS ON ANNUAL VICARIATE MEETINGS OF PASTORAL COUNCILS

Todd Cooper will send digital copies of the reports to the council following the meeting.

Terri Keefer

Albany-Corvallis/Santiam

The Albany-Corvallis Vicariate met on May 17th in Albany. The coastal towns of Reedport and Waldport were not represented. The meeting broke up into small groups to discuss pastoral priorities. When they returned to the large group meeting, the following concerns emerged from the small group reports:

- Shortage of priests, lack of support for younger priests
- Thinning out of congregations
- There was trepidation about being selected as a delegate to the Pastoral Assembly. Ms. Keefer tried to assuage these fears. Five more parishes in the vicariate need delegates. She was promised those names by Thursday.

The Santiam Vicariate had a very animated meeting. Those present expressed the same concerns as those at the Albany/Corvallis Vicariate meeting. A parish in the vicariate has been closed and the people affected are trying to relocate as parishioners.

Alicia Garcia

Beaverton Suburban

The Beaverton Suburban Vicariate met on July 19th at St. John Fisher parish. Ahead of the meeting Ms. Garcia met with Fr. Sean Weeks to set an agenda. There were 14 parishes represented at the meeting. Holy Trinity was not represented. There were several comments by those present that the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council is not effective, and the parishes don't see any results.

The pastoral priorities included the following concerns: fostering the talents of our youth, marriage prep – we should share resources and collaborate and baptismal prep. These concerns all share common structures. The parish staffs in this vicariate help each other and collaborate on Summer Bible Camp.

Ms. Garcia asked them to submit names of delegates for the Pastoral Assembly.

Chris Rose

Columbia County/North Coast

Mr. Rose reports that the North Coast Vicariate currently has no vicar and are still waiting for some priest assignments to be finalized. Since there was no vicariate-wide meeting, Mr. Rose attended some of the pastoral councils meetings at some of the parishes. He found them to be very interesting. The coastal parishes are mainly pockets of retired people.

Columbia County Vicariate has more vibrant communities. Mr. Rose attended their vicariate meeting and gave them information and asked about their concerns. They expressed many of the same concerns that have been voiced by the other vicariates: Evangelizing youth and adults, Divine Worship, Family and Marriage Life. Communication could be improved with internet access and websites. In regards to Marriage and Family Life, they would like one on one communication regarding their concerns.

It was expressed that “Ship is sinking, trying to stop leaking, need help.” There are fewer young people, diminishing attendance at church and no interest in continuing education. It was felt that

there was no interest in training and fewer priests. The small communities are struggling to keep the parishes together.

On the positive side, it is encouraging how the vicariate is working together.

Jonathan French

Downtown Portland/Southeast Portland

In the absence of Jonathan French, Todd Cooper read his report. The Southeast Vicariate met on June 17th. There were 30 people present. The Paulist Fathers are leaving the diocese and the vicariate recognized them for their many years of service at St. Philip Neri and the Paulist Center in Southeast Portland.

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) was discussed and the following priorities were listed for the archdiocese: Protecting the earth, care for the poor and homeless, simplification of annulments, how to evangelize young adults, internal disputes resolution, how to foster a spirit of welcome, meeting the needs of parishioners, connecting parishes with their schools, catechesis and standards of confirmation. Three parishes of the vicariate did not have representatives present. They were Korean Martyrs, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Stephens.

Mike Whitney

Metropolitan Eugene

The Metropolitan Eugene Vicariate met Saturday, May 21st. There were seven parishes represented and the meeting lasted four hours. They discussed pastoral priorities and were told to come up with four and rank them. They ended up with five that were ranked. In order of ranking, they are:

1. Marriage and Family Life,
2. Evangelization,
3. Young Adults
4. Cultural Diversity
5. Works of Mercy.

St. Catherine of Siena parish in Veneta requested archdiocesan help with Extra-ordinary Masses. They need more priests that can celebrate them.

The vicariate has been asking themselves: What can we do as a vicariate? They agreed on a vicariate website with links to all the parish websites and the archdiocesan website. That website is: <http://catcommmlc.wixsite.com/ccolc>

During discussion, there was a lot of frustration expressed regarding the scarcity of young adult Catholics. Mr. Whitney wondered if we were asking the right questions of the right people so he did some calling after the meeting and discovered there is a young adult group in the vicariate that meets once a week. He met with one of the leaders of the group and learned they have been meeting for about a year and their goal and mission is to connect young people to the parishes. Periodically they send emails to all the parishes asking for opportunities to help. No one has ever answered them. Mr. Whitney immediately put them in touch with St. Alice, Springfield.

College bound young adult Catholics meet at the Newman Center, and post-college young adult Catholics parish-shop. They want to become involved in ministries at the parish level but need to be put in touch with the right people.

Mr. Whitney asks ‘what can the archdiocese do to facilitate involvement’? Some suggestions were to have an archdiocesan-wide Mass for young adults and other activities and make sure they are well-publicized. There was a Young Adult Retreat but it was pretty expensive for some of them to attend. One idea is to make a committee to contact young adults and get the different groups connected.

Archbishop Sample states that connections are so important with young people connecting with each other and we need to help young people connecting to the wider Church. Where do we fit in with this? We will be piloting a program called “Young Catholic Professionals” to build community in the Portland area. On some level, connecting young adults with each other needs staff support. It requires paid staff cultivating growth and stability of young adult groups.

Stephanie Thompson

Metropolitan Salem

The Metropolitan Salem Vicariate has not met yet.

Frank Rego

Northeast Portland

Northeast Portland Vicariate met May 7th. That report was given at the last meeting.

Paul Wilson

Southern Oregon

Mr. Wilson gave the Southern Oregon report at the last meeting.

Dawn Crow

South Coast

The South Coast Vicariate met on Mary 17th. Representatives from each parish in the vicariate were present. They asked about the Pastoral Assembly and why it is important to send delegates there? Ms. Crow shared her experience on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council with them and told them what an important experience it has been for her.

The representatives at the meeting told her that they feel they have no help and it is frustrating getting resources since they are so far from Portland. After discussion, the priorities that emerged from the representatives were:

1. Divine Worship – better music is needed at all Masses and Adult Education is needed.
2. Evangelization – needs to be brought to Worship
3. Catholic youth and young adults
4. Vocations – Half of the South Coast parishes are mission churches – need more priests
5. Marriage and Family Life
6. Cultural Diversity – not special programs but unite each other as universal Church.
7. Works of Mercy – we know what we need to do – opportunities are needed to carry out.

Archbishop Sample asked, as a council priority – could the council work on practical ways to advise the archbishop on how to create connectedness to parts of the diocese at greater distance from Portland? Should the next council examine and study how to bring Church effectively there just as much as make people there feel part of our Church (local)?

Amid discussion, it was suggested that we divide the eighteen vicariates of the diocese by a third and each year, have the Archbishop go down to the joint Pastoral Council meetings in one third

of the vicariates, and alternate which vicariates he visits so that he would visit each one every three years. Personal communication between the archbishop and the people is essential. It was also suggested that we have live streaming of the conferences with on-site facilitators.

Msgr. Lienert noted that relationships are important and directly relate to the health of an institution. To build relationships, we need the Pastoral Assembly, functioning vicariates, and pastors who know how to involve people. We should sponsor area-wide events and encourage vicariates to sponsor their own events. Our long-term strategy: 1. Encourage and build relationships, 2. collaborate (facilitate), 3. support areas to create own activities.

Kathy Sabel

West Portland, Suburban

The West Portland, Suburban Vicariate met on May 31, 2016. Ms. Sabel met with Father Moisant three weeks before the vicariate meeting to determine points for discussion. They decided that each parish should share their ‘best practices’, programs and missions that are working well. They wanted feedback on the Year of Mercy and if programs for the Year of Mercy were successful or not.

What Ms. Sabel took away from the vicariate meeting was that most or all of the parishes in the West Portland, Suburban Vicariate spent the last few years in introspection. They have been asking themselves: What has gone on before? What is our history and what is changing going forward? Our Lady of the Lake and St. Anthony, Tigard are restructuring and re-organizing their parish councils. Each council is designed for a specific parish.

Some parishes are struggling with their identity (St. Cyril, Wilsonville, St. Francis, Sherwood, and St. Clare, Portland). Resurrection parish has spent five years defining themselves as a stewardship parish, and St. Anthony, Tigard has recognized that they are a diverse community and have put forth great effort for the Year of Mercy.

ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL ASSEMBLY

Todd Cooper passed around a draft agenda for the Pastoral Assembly. That draft is included and considered a part of these minutes. As of September 10, 2016, we have 110 delegates registered. The assembly will be held at St. Pius X Parish. The Knights of Columbus will provide a hot breakfast for the attendees on Saturday morning.

Electronic registration is available for those who have not already registered and we will be getting blocks of rooms at two local motels for those coming from a distance.

A memo was sent out from the Vicar for Clergy regarding vicars for vicariates. Because of clergy re-assignments, fourteen of our eighteen vicariates could need new vicars. Archbishop Sample explained that in order to strengthen our vicariate structure, each vicariate is asked to submit names for vicar; they will be told the expectations for someone acting in the role of vicar and following that, Archbishop Sample will assign vicars for the vicariates needing one.

Msgr. Lienert explained that at past Pastoral Assemblies, there would be one or two parish testimonials regarding what the pastoral councils have done. This year, the Eugene Vicariate would have a great success story. He also suggested the Pastoral Council Handbook be revamped, published, and made part of the packets.

Mr. Bentz would like two of the sessions to address the priorities and Msgr. Lienert said the vicariates should meet and then the regions so the vicariates can meet the attendees before electing their representatives. After discussion, it was decided priorities for the vicariate groups to discuss could be assigned and then each vicariate could also pick one or two priorities that they would like to discuss.

The Pastoral Assembly generates ideas; the job of the Pastoral Council is to formalize priorities and present them to the Archbishop. Mr. Cooper stated that this time the priorities are already set and the assembly is to determine practicalities: "How do we implement these ideas" on the parish, vicariate, and archdiocesan level. Archbishop Sample agreed that we should take the priorities and formulate a concrete strategic plan for the next four years. The practicalities should include what is expected of the Pastoral Center, what is expected of the parish and what is expected of the vicariate.

Msgr. Lienert suggested that a form be developed for each discussion group so that consistent data is collected. We need outcomes that are measurable and achievable. There should then be website reports on the diocesan plan. In advance of the assembly, delegates should be notified of what will be expected of them and what will be discussed at the assembly.

Todd Cooper passed out Evaluation Forms for the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. That form is included and should be considered part of these minutes. Mr. Cooper asked the council members to complete the forms and send them back to him before September 19, 2016. They can be emailed to him, or if the person wants anonymity, they can mail them to the office. Mr. Cooper noted that this council has already had one notable success, and that was transitioning from one archbishop to another.

ARCHBISHOP'S REPORT & REMARKS

Archbishop Sample said he had real gratitude to the Pastoral Council for the welcome they had given to him when he "was a stranger in a strange land." He considers the Pastoral Council a gift to him these past three and a half years. Archbishop Sample especially thanked those council members who served the extra year.

NEXT MEETING of the APC: January 14, 2017 - Joint meeting of the outgoing APC and the newly elected APC at the Pastoral Center (2838 E. Burnside St., Portland, OR 97214)

The meeting closed at 3:05 p.m. with a prayer led by Deacon Jerry Giger.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Marie Van Dyke, Staff