

**Archdiocesan Pastoral Council**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**January 14, 2017**  
**Pastoral Center, Portland, Oregon**

The first meeting of the 2017-2019 Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) included the newly elected regional representatives and the newly appointed members of the council along with the outgoing members of the council. See attached document for a list of the current members of the APC. Despite the snow-covered roads in Portland, all but two of the new council members were able to attend. Archbishop Sample celebrated Mass at 9:30 AM in the Pastoral Center chapel.

**WELCOME & APC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The APC meeting opened with a welcome by Chair Clint Bentz, followed by self-introductions of all present. Archbishop Sample welcomed all of the new members and thanked the outgoing members. Today's meeting serves primarily as an orientation for new council members. The APC meeting dates for 2017 are: April 8, July 22 & October 28.

**ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL ASSEMBLY**

Todd Cooper reported. The Archdiocesan Pastoral Assembly (APA) held at St Pius X Parish in Portland last November was a great success. Attendance and parish representation was the highest ever with 325 people from 110 (of 124) parishes attending. 137 evaluations were submitted. 91% rated the assembly a 4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being "excellent". At the assembly, Archbishop Sample outlined six pastoral priorities for the Archdiocese of Portland for the next three years: (1) Catechesis and Faith formation, (2) Divine Worship, (3) Catholic Young Adult Ministry, (4) Vocations, (5) Marriage and Family Life, and (6) Works of Mercy. The vicariate/regional discussions on concrete initiatives to implement the pastoral priorities resulted in the submission of 155 input forms from all 13 regions (18 vicariates). Council members were given a summary of the input received from the assembly (they will also receive copies of all 155 input forms). The task at hand for the APC is to review the ideas and suggestions gathered at the assembly and to recommend to the archbishop concrete initiatives to implement the six pastoral priorities. Todd Cooper reminded the new council that the primary goal with the concrete initiatives and the priorities is to lead people to an encounter with Christ – as Archbishop Sample emphasized at the assembly, our ultimate mission is the salvation of souls.

**YEAR OF MERCY**

The Year of Mercy officially concluded on Nov. 20. The archdiocesan committee to help the local Church live out the special year did a great job to promote the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The Archdiocese created a special website for the year. Archbishop Vlazny led a diocesan pilgrimage to Rome in October. Many parishes organized their own events. Pastoral Center employees did a work of mercy project each month and prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every Friday at 3pm. Pope Francis and Archbishop Sample both emphasized that our focus on mercy should not end with the close of the year. This is one of the reasons that one of our new pastoral priorities is the works of mercy.

## 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE APPARITIONS AT FATIMA

2017 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church-approved Marian apparitions at Fatima. The Archdiocese is working to help promote activities and events to celebrate throughout the year. On May 13, 2017, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first apparition, Archbishop Sample will celebrate a special Mass at the Cathedral. He will also lead a pilgrimage to Fatima from Sept. 14-23, 2017. Throughout the year, and especially between the months of June and October, the Archdiocese will promote the First Saturdays devotion, which originates from the messages of the Blessed Mother at Fatima. The APC was given a handout on the First Saturdays devotion. See attached. Other events and activities will also be planned, including a visit of the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima to the diocese during August, and the visit of another pilgrim statue in October. October 13 is the anniversary of the last apparition at Fatima.

## ORIENTATION

After lunch, the outgoing members of the APC left and the orientation began for the new members. Each councilor received a binder with a formal letter of appointment to the APC from Archbishop Sample and copies of helpful resources for their work. Archbishop Sample addressed the new council. He discussed the foundation of the diocesan pastoral council in the *Code of Canon Law*. He referenced Canon 511 in which council members are asked 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.” The APC is not a deliberative body – a decision making body (like a board of directors), but a consultative body. Members should feel comfortable speaking openly. The APC helps the bishop get the pulse of the local Church. It is a unique and valuable voice for the bishop. The work of the APC is to help the bishop with pastoral planning – addressing the pastoral needs of the Church.

Msgr. Charles Lienert, executive staff for the APC, gave an overview of the archdiocesan church. The Archdiocese of Portland – the local Church – is all of us in the diocese. Our salvation comes through a community. The institutional structures of the Church, including the area vicariates help us to know that the Church is bigger than the parish. The APC is the pastoral council for the diocese. The diocese also has an administrative council that deals with financial issues and a presbyteral council that assists the bishop especially with matters of governance. Pastors are part of the ministry of the bishop. The pastoral priorities reflect elements of the unchanging mission of the Church that have particular import for our time.

Archbishop Sample told the APC that the greatest help it can provide him is to recommend specific objectives for the pastoral priorities that can be accomplished over the next three years. What could reasonably be done at the archdiocesan, vicariate and parish levels? And then, help me to evaluate our progress as we move along.

APC members requested that a written summary of the meeting go out after each meeting. They also asked to be included on the electronic mailing list for the Archdiocese.

**NEXT MEETING of the APC: April 8, 2017 at the Pastoral Center in Portland.**

*N. B. This summary is not an official record of the APC meeting. The full meeting minutes will be published once they are approved by the APC at its next meeting. Summary prepared by Todd Cooper, APC staff [tcooper@archdpdx.org](mailto:tcooper@archdpdx.org).*