

Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon  
Archdiocesan Pastoral Council  
MINUTES  
May 12, 2018  
Pastoral Center

Present:

Archbishop Alexander Sample, Bishop Peter Smith, Clint Bentz, Dawn Crow, Michael Ferry, Alicia Garcia, Deacon Jerry Giger, Josh Jones, Gloria Lyons, Phoebe Meister, Terrance Merritt, Frank Rego, Father Cary Reniva, Nancy Smith, Sister Marcia Ternes, Jesse Villarreal, Paul Wilson.

Staff present: Msgr. Charles Lienert, Todd Cooper

Members Absent:

Eileen Clarkson, Father John Henderson, Pamela McLean, FSE, Patrick Walsh.

Archbishop Sample offered Mass in the morning. Clint Bentz called the meeting to order following Mass.

### **Approval of Minutes & Agenda /Executive Committee Report**

The Minutes of the March 17 meeting were approved, as was the agenda for today's meeting.

- A new, archdiocesan Liturgical Handbook will be published on June 3 (Corpus Christi)
- Most of the Annual Meetings of Vicariate Pastoral Councils (AMVPC) have been scheduled.
- The annual meeting between the Archbishop and the vicars emphasized the importance of the AMVPC and asked vicars to cooperate with APC representatives in planning and organizing the meetings. The meeting had good spirit, and clarified the role of the vicars.
- Also discussed were the Pope's reported comments on Hell. The Archbishop assured everyone that the teachings of the Church on Hell had not changed.

### **APC Formation – Todd Cooper**

Todd Cooper reviewed Pope Francis' recent document *On the Call to Holiness in Today's World (Gaudete et Exsultate)*. This document makes holiness accessible to all.

Chapter 1 - The purpose of the document is to "re-propose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time." God is asking everything of us. "Holiness is the most attractive face of the church" and a simple way to get started is by doing individual acts of charity throughout the day, small gestures of holiness. Many distractions of the world leave no room for us to hear the voice of God. Prayer is necessary. Do not be afraid of holiness; holiness is the natural path to true joy.

Chapter 2 – Enemies of holiness. Pelagianism - we don't gain salvation through our own efforts. Salvation is a gift from God.

Chapter 3 – Beatitudes. This is the "Christian's identity card." To find out how you are doing on the path to holiness, simply compare your own life against the beatitudes. Being poor in spirit, poor of heart – "that is holiness." Encourage examination of conscience at the end of the day.

Chapter 4 – Signs. Perseverance, patience, humility & meekness, joy and a sense of humor, boldness & passion. Call of the community – a journey we should walk together.

Chapter 5 – The Spiritual Battle. The devil is real and always trying to throw us off track. At the conclusion of the document, the Pope encourages us to look to the Blessed Mother as a model of holiness.

### **Pastoral Center Reports on Pastoral Priorities – Todd Cooper**

APC members were given one-page handouts on the progress being made on each of the pastoral priorities: Catechesis & Faith Formation, Divine Worship, Catholic Young, Adult Ministry, Vocations, Marriage & Family Life, and Works of Mercy. Digital copies of the reports can be obtained from Todd Cooper at: [tcooper@archdpx.org](mailto:tcooper@archdpx.org).

### **Annual Vicariate Meetings of Pastoral Councils**

#### **Columbia County/North Coast - Gloria Lyons**

North Coast – very good meeting, 30 people, next one already scheduled in October, want to do it quarterly. Everyone went away feeling strong about the vicariate.

#### **East Portland Suburban / South Portland Suburban - Phoebe Meister**

East Portland – Every parish represented, 32 people. Marriage and family life was the big issue. Some parishes struggling with annulment process, takes too long and little to no communication during the process. Give people an update: “We are working on your annulment.” Some are leaving the church because of this. Disconnect between pastoral care and legal aspects of annulment.

Pastoral care for the elderly: We can’t overlook our elderly parishioners who have been active parishioners but who now can't make it to church and may need visitors.

Suicide, bereavement and mentoring the homeless were also discussed. Be Christ to all people, even when ugliness is shown. Kelsey Rea from the Pastoral Center staff was there.

#### **Northeast Portland – Frank Rego**

Northeast Portland – Small turnout, only 4 of 10 parishes represented (St. Rose, OLL, Holy Rosary, Immaculate Heart]. Good meeting anyway. Parishes were very impressed at the quantity of work that has already been done by the Pastoral Center on the pastoral priorities, as well as the resources available on the Archdpx website. Decided to collaborate on Youth (middle and high school) activities, will work together on organizing participation in youth retreat later this year or early 2019.

#### **Southern Oregon – Paul Wilson**

Southern Oregon – 27 people, every parish represented including four out of five pastors. The most we’ve had. Already set the next meeting for April 2019. Having similar issues with annulments, process takes too long, no communication. Issues of delay, not knowing what is happening, why certain information is requested. Should not be a bureaucratic machine, but a pastoral experience. People don’t want to wait that long for their wedding. Ricky Shoop from the Pastoral Ctr. attended.

#### **Yamhill County/Marion County – Jesse Villareal**

Marion County – 40 people, great meeting, priests from every parish, very positive. Each parish gave a very informative report on their activities during the past year. Everyone is working hard to bring the presence of Jesus to their members.

### **Update from Office of Divine Worship – Msgr. Gerard O’Connor**

2200 people have attended EMHC training so far. The goal is to have a more reverent, beautiful celebration of the sacred liturgy. Starting with EMHC training, then Lector training.

The new Liturgical Handbook will be available on June 3rd Feast of Corpus Christi. 320 pages, designed to be the go-to reference for all things liturgical. To put in one place the current law, norms, expectations. Not new material. Every parish will get one hard copy, and we will also publish a pdf version online that can be downloaded, and will be easy to update and keep current. This will be a source of rich theology that can be used for teaching. Archbishop hopes that each priest will read this. We should all study the Sacred Liturgy so we do it well.

The Handbook is based on the norms and practices established at the Second Vatican Council. The average person attending Mass doesn't really understand what's going on. Our people need a deep catechesis about what the Sacred Liturgy is. This is one of our pastoral priorities and a Handbook will help people understand this. The Archbishop says that the Sacred Liturgy is the most important thing that we do, the source and summit of our faith. We have to get the liturgy right because everything else we do flows from this. He wants a more reverent, beautiful, transcendent, prayerful, spiritual experience. The purpose of the holy Mass is twofold: 1) worship God, and 2) sanctify the community

### **Update from Communications Office – David Renshaw**

Formerly the Executive Director of Mater Dei Radio, David has been here 3 years in August and has a staff of three. The strategy of his office is to be where the eyes and ears of the people are, to homogenize and unify Archdiocese branding so that we have one look and feel. We can now allow ministers to run their ministry without having to also be graphic artists and communication experts.

David gave APC members a tour of the offices in the Pastoral Center.

### **Archbishop’s Report**

The Archdiocese will start a Pastoral Strategic Planning process assessing the vitality and long term viability of parishes. We want to look at where we will be 5-10 years from now. There is major growth in some areas, others are in decline. We don't want to be in a reactive mode. We intend to make this a grass roots planning process that is participatory. Parishes will do a self-assessment around ministry, sacraments, financials, etc. When plans are implemented, there should be no surprises. This will be a major discussion at the convocation with diocesan priests this fall, discussing what this process should look like. This does not mean “picking on” small, rural parishes. We will do long range planning using vicariate and parish structures.

On Corpus Christi Sunday, June 3, there will be a special Mass at the Cathedral, and a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. Mass will be a 2:00 p.m.

The meeting closed with a prayer shortly after 3:00 p.m.

**Next meeting of the APC: Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018**