

**Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
Archdiocesan Pastoral Council**

**MINUTES of January 14, 2017
The Pastoral Center, Portland**

Present: Archbishop Alexander K. Sample, Bishop Peter Smith, Clint Bentz, Eileen Clarkson, Dawn Crow, Phoebe Eufemia Meister, Michael Ferry, Alicia Garcia, Deacon Jerry Giger, Melinda Guillen, Josh Jones, Pamela McLean, Terrance Merritt, Frank Rego, Fr. Cary Reniva, Chris Rose, Nancy Smith, Sr. Marcia Ternes, FSE, Jesse Villarreal, Patrick Walsh

Staff Present: Msgr. Chuck Lienert, Todd Cooper, Maria Silvagnia

Absent: Fr. John Henderson, Fr. Bill Moisant, Gloria Lyons, Paul Wilson, Terri Keefer

Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Sample at 9:30 AM in the Pastoral Center Chapel.

WELCOME & APC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The sixty-sixth meeting of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) opened at 10:20 AM with a welcome by Chair Clint Bentz, followed by self-introductions of all present.

The minutes of the September 10, 2016 meeting of the APC were approved as submitted. It was suggested that these minutes be posted on the Archdiocese website.

The current agenda was reviewed, noting that the Ministry Certificate Program Redesign would not be presented at this meeting.

Staff member, Todd Cooper, read out loud a Thank You email from outgoing member Terri Keefer who could not be present at today's meeting.

REPORT ON ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL ASSEMBLY

Todd reviewed evaluation results from 2016 Archdiocesan Pastoral Assembly (APA) that was held at St Pius X in Portland on November 4 & 5, 2016. Attendance was the highest ever recorded for the APA: 325 people from 110 parishes were represented out of a total of 124 parishes in the Archdiocese. This is due, in part, to outreach starting earlier in the year. Todd thanked all moderators for their service during the assembly.

Of the 137 attendees who responded to the rating survey, 91% rated the assembly a 4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5, and 155 attendees responded to the request for feedback on the Pastoral Priorities breakout sessions.

Michael Ferry suggested that we consider for next time both regional-based and topic-based breakout sessions.

Josh Jones raised the question about how we ensure that the results reflect the thoughts and ideas of the entire group and not just the most outspoken person in each group. It was suggested that we could include a question on the next survey asking if there are any further or additional ideas that were not expressed in the group.

Bishop Peter Smith suggested that each person in the breakout session receive three minutes to express their thoughts and ideas.

Pam McLean suggested that breakout topics get sent out sooner to help people prepare their thoughts and ideas ahead of the meeting.

Patrick Walsh said that possible language barriers among some attendees might hinder additional ideas being expressed.

Archbishop Sample asked that new members reflect on the APA results and make written notes determining which processes worked and which did not. Keep your written notes with your other APA materials and refer to them later as we move toward planning the next meeting in three years. If you submit them to Todd Cooper, he will keep them on file.

PASTORAL PRIORITIES FROM APA 2016

Todd Cooper handed out (1) Pastoral Priorities from the APA 2016, (2) Overview of Vicariate / Regional Discussions, and (3) Summary of Pastoral Priorities. When reviewing and reflecting on our pastoral priorities, Todd reminded everyone that our primary goal is to lead people to an encounter with Christ.

Frank Rego asked what is the most effective way to communicate results to the vicariates who attended the APA?

Fr. Cary Reniva suggested that we send out a draft of the results initially for feedback and encouragement to parishes. We are listening to their thoughts and needs!

Bishop Peter Smith suggested developing an electronic copy to email to members.

Archbishop Sample asked members to consider how to involve the priests and the Presbyteral Council in the input and monitoring of the pastoral priorities. How can we bring ideas and agendas together to best serve our parishes?

FINAL REPORT ON THE YEAR OF MERCY

Todd Cooper reported that the Archdiocese of Portland had an official committee for the Year of Mercy. The committee was responsible for planning monthly events that helped educate and promote the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Each month's activity focused on one mercy item in which volunteers from the Archdiocese went out into the community, for example participation in the Friend to Friend program at Providence Hospital. Many parishes organized their own events for the Year of Mercy, as well.

One of the activities implemented at the Archdiocese was a Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed in our Chapel every Friday at 3:00 PM. This prayer has been well attended and will continue to be offered every Friday at 3:00 PM.

2017 & THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF FATIMA

Todd Cooper reported that plans are being made for celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparition in Fatima, Portugal. Events and activities will be taking place from June through October 2017, the months in which Our Blessed Mother appeared to the three children in Fatima.

On May 13, 2017, the anniversary of the first apparition, Archbishop Sample will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral.

Archbishop Sample encouraged everyone to promote and participate in the First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On the first Saturday of the month, the faithful are asked to (1) go to confession, (2) receive Holy Communion, (3) pray five decades of the rosary, and (4) spend 15 additional minutes in meditation on the mysteries of the rosary. And do all this with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima will be in the Portland area in August. Archdiocese volunteer Bill Allen is working to coordinate various parish visits for the statue.

The Rosary Bowl, sponsored by Mater Dei radio, will be in October. This is an annual event held in Keizer, OR. Archbishop Sample will celebrate Mass.

The Archbishop will lead a pilgrimage to Fatima from September 14-23. More details to follow.

We will plan for an event on October 13, the anniversary of the last apparition, to close out the anniversary year.

Fr. Michael Gaitley of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, will be leading a Mercy & Mary retreat at St Cecilia's in Beaverton from February 10-12, 2017. Fr. Gaitley is the author of *33 Days to Morning Glory*, a do-it-yourself retreat in preparation for Marian consecration.

SHARING INSIGHTS ABOUT COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Good communication is key. The support of parish priests is needed. Send out a summary of the APC meetings. Once the minutes are approved, send those out. APC reps can send the minutes to the pastoral council chairs and pastors.

The Archbishop is working to create a stronger bond with the vicars, which is needed. He will ask the vicars to work together with the APC reps.

Todd Cooper will make sure that the APC members receive the General (electronic) Mailing that goes out weekly from the Archdiocese.

ROLE OF THE APC

Archbishop Sample discussed the Code of Canon Law, Chapter V: The Pastoral Council, which was included in everyone's binder. He emphasized 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." Archbishop clarified that the pastoral council is a consultative body, and not a governing council. The APC is extremely important to the Archbishop, and members should feel comfortable speaking openly at meetings. The APC addresses the pastoral needs of the Church. Archbishop Sample emphasized that the parishes do not create the Archdiocese, but rather the Archdiocese shepherds the parishes. The APC assists the Archbishop to determine how best to shepherd the parishes. The Archbishop expressed that he wants the council to be an active, working council.

OVERVIEW OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN CHURCH

Msgr Chuck Lienert stressed that the Archdiocese is all of us, and that our local church is wider than our own parish. Our salvation comes within a community. We often confuse the church for its structures. Pastors are part of the ministry of the bishop. Area Vicariates are an institutional structure to help us know that the Church is bigger than the parish. One of the roles of the vicariates is to foster cooperation between parishes. The APC is the pastoral council for the local Church. The Archbishop has a staff to help him meet the needs of the people. The pastoral priorities reflect elements of the mission of the Church which have particular import in our time.

Chair Clint Bentz said that the APC is for pastoral planning on issues that are larger than any one parish. This council will help to implement and evaluate the accomplishment of the pastoral priorities.

The APC meets four times per year: the first meeting is an orientation.

Q & A / COMMENTS

Q: What is the best way to handle opposition / disinterest / resistance from parishes regarding vicariate meetings?

A: Msgr Lienert answered that we should spend time listening to them and understanding why they might be opposed.

Q: Fr Cary Reniva asked how to accomplish priorities in a concrete way going forward?

A: Archbishop Sample answered that members should hone in on specific objectives that we can accomplish in three years; narrow the focus. Council members are not responsible for implementing the programs, themselves, but instead are being asked to gather information to report back at the next council meeting.

Archbishop Sample said that APC representatives should be viewed as a conduit of access to communication. We are striving for a collaborative method between parishes and the Pastoral Center. The greatest help that the APC can give to the archbishop is to hone in on specific pastoral objectives around the pastoral priorities that we can accomplish over the next three years. What can reasonably be done by the parish? By the vicariate? By the diocese? Identify the objectives that we can do in the next three years and help the Archbishop to evaluate as we move along.

Dawn Crow said that the most important thing members can do is to establish a friendly, working relationship with your vicar right away.

It was suggested that members contact their vicars now to get a vicariate meeting date for 2017 on the calendar. Todd Cooper agreed to send an email to all vicars letting them know that they will be contacted by their APC representative shortly. Chair Clint Bentz said that most vicariates meet quarterly with priests and staff.

Todd Cooper will send out a two-page executive summary of the APC meeting. Todd will also send out the input from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Assembly.

Archbishop Sample said that APC members should be listening to feedback in the parishes, and bringing that input to the APC meetings.

Todd Cooper said that it's important to stay in touch with what's happening in the Catholic community: read the Sentinel, read the Archbishop's column in the Sentinel, listen to Mater Dei radio, especially to our locally-produced shows such as Voice of the Shepherd with Archbishop Sample.

NEXT MEETING OF THE APC: April 8, 2017 at the Pastoral Center once again.

The meeting closed with a prayer led by Deacon Jerry Giger at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Silvagnia, Staff