

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

**MINUTES of July 22, 2017
The Pastoral Center, Portland**

Present: Archbishop Alexander K. Sample, Bishop Peter Smith, Clint Bentz, Eileen Clarkson, Dawn Crow, Alicia Garcia, Melinda Guillen, Fr. John Henderson, Josh Jones, Gloria Lyons, Pamela McLean, Terrance Merritt, Frank Rego, Fr. Cary Reniva, Nancy Smith, Sr. Marcia Ternes, FSE, Patrick Walsh, Paul Wilson

Staff Present: Todd Cooper, Deacon Kevin Welch, Maria Silvagnia

Absent: Michael Ferry, Deacon Jerry Giger, Msgr. Charles Lienert, Phoebe Meister, Jesse Villarreal

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

**WELCOME!
APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The sixty-eighth meeting of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) opened at 10:30 AM with a welcome by Chair Clint Bentz.

The minutes of April 8, 2017 were approved with changes:

- Page 1 under Approval of Agenda & Minutes / Executive Committee Report reads: “Eleven of those ideas were described as “high energy” because Council members suggested them numerous times.” It should be changed to “Eleven of those ideas were described as “high energy” based on input from the recent pastoral assembly & past councils.”

- Page 1: Gloria Lyons was present at the April 8 meeting however her name was mistakenly omitted.

APC Formation – *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel): It was recommended that council members read the introduction and chapter 1 (The Church’s Missionary Transformation) to discuss at the next meeting. This book is an apostolic exhortation calling people to action. Deacon Kevin Welch has a few copies, and copies can also be purchased online through Amazon, etc. Todd will send a link to APC members.

PASTORAL PRIORITIES

A draft of the Recommended 2017-2019 Pastoral Initiatives was handed out. There are two versions: one dated June 6 & another dated July 20. Members were asked to focus on the July 20 version.

Catechesis & Faith Formation

It was reported that vicariates are asking for flexibility in regards to a standardized catechetical program. They want changes to reflect the populations they serve. It was thought that what people were looking for was a standardization of *process*, instead of a standardization of *content*.

Archbishop Sample pointed out that a lack of standardization can lead to poor catechesis. Archbishop stated that two things are primarily needed for good catechesis: 1. completeness, and 2. authenticity (is the program faithful to the teachings of the church?). Archbishop stressed that he is responsible for ensuring that parishes adequately educate young people by providing the tools they need so that they do not become catechized by the secular world. Archbishop would like to see an organized curriculum that builds upon previous knowledge from year to year. We cannot shy away from difficult or uncomfortable / controversial issues. Schools have standardized curriculum for math, science, etc. Why should we lower the bar for catechesis, which is most important?

Fr. John Henderson suggested that content is important, but delivery is also important. How is the information being presented? People's concerns may stem from that.

It was suggested that under Initiative 2, the word "programs" in the first sentence be changed to "guidelines."

It was also suggested that under Initiative 4, the word "minority" be replaced with "non-English speaking and special needs". Melinda Guillen said that people were asking if the deaf & blind community were included in catechesis & faith formation.

Divine Worship

Some vicariates have expressed concern that we will be "policing the liturgy." Archbishop Sample pointed out that the liturgy in the Missal is the liturgy of the Church; not the liturgy of a few persons. We as an Archdiocese do not plan the liturgy; we follow it.

Preaching is an important part of divine worship. *Evangelii Gaudium* has a chapter on homiletics.

Marriage & Family

Various vicariate feedback included the topic of convalidation, people married outside the church who want to “get right” with the church, and marriages in trouble.

Under Initiative 1, there was a request for clarification about the phrase “meet people where they are at.” Archbishop Sample recommended adding “with the intent of leading them to fuller life in Christ.”

Initiative 2: Prepare Catholics for entering into the Sacrament of Matrimony. There was a suggestion to add “first time marriage, those who live together & civil unions.”

Initiative 3: Provide a reliable resource to Catholics seeking the services of mental health professionals that support their life of faith. There was a suggestion to add “and include marriages in trouble.”

Initiative 5: Provide excellent, current and approved resources to support young married couples and families during their first five years of marriage. It was suggested to change this initiative to read: Provide excellent, current and approved resources to assist parishes in their support to young married couples and families during their first five years of marriage.

Vocations

Our primary vocation is the call to holiness. We must discover our vocation inside of that

Works of Mercy

Initiative 2: a suggestion was made to include victims, inmates & families, as well as prisoners.

Discussion ensued for clarification of initiatives.

Young Adult Ministry

Archdiocese website has an online survey opportunity: “sharewithfrancispdx.com”. You can find the link on the Archdiocese homepage. Pope Francis is asking for feedback from young people, parents, and church leaders in preparation for the 2018 Synod on Young People and Vocational Discernment.

Archbishop Sample stressed that young people are a part of the church; we do not minister to them.

Deacon Kevin said that the Archdiocese is looking for a new Director of Youth & Young Adults.

Discussion ensued about how to connect / engage with youth who are transitioning from college to parish life. What are these young people being connected to? The strength of their Catholic roots while still young will help determine their faith life going forward.

Todd will amend the draft to include changes and will send out via email to council members.

USCCB CONVOCATION OF CATHOLIC LEADERS

The convocation took place in Orlando, Florida. Archbishop Sample, Bishop Peter, Todd, Clint, Jason Kidd from Marriage & Family Life department, and Deacon Kevin attended.

There were over 3000 people in attendance, with productive interactions between bishops, lay leaders & religious.

Much of the discussions were about the new evangelization in light of *Evangelii Gaudium*.

The APC members who were at the convocation agreed that it was an inspiring and worthwhile event.

Archbishop Sample said that we are called to go to the peripheries and make disciples of all. We need to be confident about our faith. We have what the world is looking for: we have Jesus Christ to give to those who do not have him yet.

Videos are available online from some of the sessions. They can be viewed on YouTube, USCCB website, and EWTN website.

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS: TODD COOPER

Included in the handouts was a flyer about a parish leadership gathering. Staff from the Pastoral Center will be visiting parishes to establish stronger connections. They will be taking place August 22 at Shepherd of the Valley in Central Point, August 23 at St Alice in Springfield, and August 24 at St Pius X in Portland. Open to everyone at no cost.

Deacon Kevin Welch compiled a list of pastoral ministries staff who have each been assigned as a contact person to each vicariate so that vicariates have a pastoral center point person to reach out to. Todd will send out information.

Celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Fatima are underway. The statue will be at St Stephen in Portland on August 2, St Peter in The Dalles on August 3, The Cathedral on August 4, St John the Apostle in Oregon City on August 5, St Edward in Lebanon on August 6, St Thomas in Redmond on August 7, and Sacred Heart in Klamath Falls on August 8. More information is on the Archdiocese of Portland website.

Forty people have signed up for the pilgrimage to Fatima with Archbishop Sample from September 14-23.

The Institute for Catholic Life and Leadership is still accepting registrations for the Foundational Certificate in Theology and Pastoral Ministry. Seventeen people have signed up so far. Classes start in September 2017. All classes are held at St Edward Parish in Keizer. The postcard included with the handouts has more information.

ARCHBISHOP'S REPORT

Archbishop wanted to first stress that we at the Pastoral Center are here to serve the parishes.

The new Director of Divine Worship, Msgr. Gerard O'Conner, will start on September 1. He is from Massachusetts most recently. He received a Doctorate in Sacred Liturgy from San Anselmo in Rome.

The Chancellor position will be posted soon. There will be some changes in the job description with the new Chancellor.

Meitler has completed the Catholic schools report. We will receive a copy of that report soon.

Archbishop wrote the Marriage & Family Life Guidelines, which were published in the Sentinel. These guidelines will assist pastors who are guiding parishioners.

Much of our goals require increased staff and financial resources. It can be a source of frustration that we do not have unlimited financial resources, but rest assured we are totally engaged in our fullest capacity to help fulfill all of our goals.

NEXT MEETING OF THE APC: October 28, 2017 at the Pastoral Center

The meeting closed with a prayer by Bishop Peter Smith at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Silvagnia, Staff