

Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
Archdiocesan Pastoral Council
MINUTES
March 17, 2018
Pastoral Center

Present:

Archbishop Alexander Sample, Bishop Peter Smith, Clint Bentz, Eileen Clarkson, Dawn Crow, Michael Ferry, Alicia Garcia, Josh Jones, Pamela McLean, Phoebe Meister, Terrance Merritt, Frank Rego, Nancy Smith, Patrick Walsh.

Staff present: Msgr. Charles Lienert, Todd Cooper

Members Absent:

Deacon Jerry Giger, Father John Henderson, Gloria Lyons, Father Cary Reniva, Sister Marcia Ternes, FSE, Jesse Villarreal, Paul Wilson.

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 October 28, 2017 meeting were reviewed by the members. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. Todd Cooper will see to it that the approved minutes are posted on the archdiocesan website.

Meeting dates for the next year were set: May 12, 2018; September 29, 2018 (changed from September 8th); November 12, 2018; and February 2, 2019. Todd Cooper will send out the changes and the dates to all members.

APC Formation – Clint Bentz

Clint Bentz reviewed Chapter 1 of *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), with the council members.

In this chapter, the Holy Father calls us all to be missionary calling the Church to focus on the peripheries; to wash each other's feet. Evangelizers need to take on the smell of the sheep. Evangelizers must be patient and mostly concerned with the fruit of their efforts, and filled with joy by our mission. The ideal is to be in a permanent state of mission. The status quo doesn't work. Evangelization is pitted against self preservation. The parish is not an outdated institution; rather it should be "where the rubber meets the road".

A parish is the presence of the Church in a particular area. The Evangelization movement cannot lose contact with the parish. The missionary impulse must be that of renewal and reform. Sometimes the bishop will be in the front of the movement with the people behind, but our energy should not be around the organization, but the mission. The Church must not be too centralized as being missionary is the key.

Morality is our response to the God of Love who saves us. It is important to preach to change the culture. We must communicate change in truth. We cannot preach without truth in who we are and how we live. In this, the Church must keep the doors open.

If the whole Church takes up this missionary impulse, it must focus on the poor and the sick. It is preferred to have a Church that is bruised and wounded that will focus on the starving at our door and will give them something to eat.

The question was posed as to how to take on the “smell of the sheep” in western Oregon? Archbishop Sample’s reply was that we must be out and among the people and make our presence a ministry. We can’t hole up in our institutions and wait for people to come to us. We must go where the bruised and broken are with patience and presence.

He stated further that the laity can participate in the mission of the Church. So often their involvement is reduced to “churchy stuff”, e.g. Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Catechist, etc. The genius of *Lumen Gentium* is primarily saying the place of the laity in the world is to be salt, light and leaven in the world.

Alicia remembered the works of the Legion of Mary, they would go door to door. 90% of the people don’t go to church anymore. Today’s generations say, “What is church?” She asked how do we implement *Evangelium Gaudium* in our parish? The pope is making us rethink who we are and getting the message out to everyone.

Western Oregon has fallen away and is harder to reach than the unchurched. Archbishop Sample noted that we need to let the Lord do the work. Mother Theresa reminded us all that we are not called to be successful, we are called to be faithful.

In response to a comment that inside the Church, some people decide to stay, some decide to leave, Archbishop Sample stated that we must form missionary disciples. Some Catholics faith is holding on by a thread. *Institute for Catholic Life and Leadership*. He further stated that the bishop is the one called to convert the local Church (diocesan Church).

The Book of Acts speaks of the community of believers being of one mind and one heart with a common ecclesiology. One unified Church. Division and rancor is a trouble in our culture. Discord is the breaker of community. There is so much anger in our culture. We need to show love. Our culture is good at disguising vice as virtue.

We need to build strong cultures in our parishes and allow people to share their own stories. This will build lots of empathy. We are quick to demonize or write-off someone, but we are all broken. I can disagree and still love others and treat them with respect.

Pastoral Priorities and Concrete Pastoral Initiatives – Todd Cooper

Todd Cooper gave a summary of the archdiocesan Pastoral Priorities. He said that these priorities are an exciting movement.

Most people only go to church one hour a week. It is important that we reach them while they are there. A starting place would be better homilies. People are saying they want training from the Pastoral Center. This can be done on the vicariate level. There also needs to be resources for people in their native language, including Vietnamese.

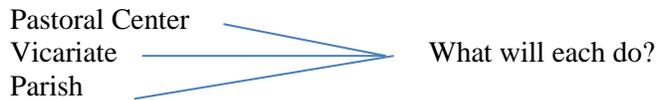
New Chancellor

Sr. Veronica Schueler, the new Chancellor for the archdiocese was introduced, and she shared some of her background.

Annual Vicariate Meetings for Pastoral Councils – Todd Cooper

Why do we have these meetings? Representatives should remind everyone that the priorities came from the pastoral planning done by each vicariate. A letter should be sent with the invitations. The purpose is for each vicariate to have a pastoral planning that opens up the line of communications with the people in the pews. The representative’s job is to listen. Unity is the priority.

Todd stated that someone from the Pastoral Center will attend each annual vicariate meeting. He will send out a list of Pastoral Center representatives for each vicariate to the vicariate representatives.



Vicariate Pastoral

- Marriage prep for whole vicariate
- Youth Ministry
- RCIA
- Drive/car pool to youth events

Desired outcome at annual vicariate meetings for Pastoral Councils

- Parishes can’t do everything on their own
 - i. Ideas for vicariate collaboration often come from parish staff

Catholic Leadership Gathering – Todd Cooper

Todd reported on the proposed Catholic Leadership Gathering in the Archdiocese of Portland. “The Church is alive”! The gathering will use the USCCB National Convocation of Catholic Leaders in 2017 as a model. It was part of an enterprise because so many people strive to evangelize.

Topics discussed were Catholic healthcare, public policy, life issues, Catholic schools, *Evangelii Gaudium* and forming missionary disciples.

The media could be invited. A focus could be placed on some topics or the initiatives. Pastors could be invited to bring a delegate with them.

Video message from the Pope.

Catholics vote with their boots. People are unaware of all the ministries. We must tell our stories as Catholics to the public, invite different religious orders. A guideline could be prepared for pastors helping them to pick their delegates.

Archbishop's Report

Archbishop Sample has approved a strategic plan for Catholic schools. A consultant from Meitler was hired to develop a plan that moves us forward. Catholic schools need to keep their identity and mission. That is where we need to be going.

The Catholic schools in western Oregon are in good shape compared to other dioceses. We are planning from a position of strength and viability. A huge endowment is being created for tuition assistance. This will help people in the lower middle income bracket to afford a Catholic school education for their children. The dream is that no Catholic parent will be unable to send their children to Catholic school because they don't have the money.

Schools superintendent, Brother William Dygert is retiring. This is an important position and we can't just settle for a mediocre candidate.

New Liturgical Handbook

The liturgical handbook will have all the documents and in one place. It will treat not just rubrics. It is not new norms, but mainly a restatement and reminder of how to celebrate liturgy according to the Church. The hope is that it will be a premier document in the U.S. for liturgy.

There will be a few new practices:

1. Return to practice of kneeling at the 'Lamb of God'.
2. Training and certifying the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (Reverence for the Blessed Sacrament). Commissioned by the bishop.
3. No longer permit Communion Services on weekdays. Why? To help develop a deeper appreciation for the Holy Mass. Liturgy of the Hours will be prayed instead of a Communion Service.

Mass is a sacramental representation. We don't go to Mass to get Communion. Receiving Communion is the high point of the Mass but we go to Mass to enter into the Paschal Mystery.

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle for the sick and homebound.

Corpus Christi – June 3rd

On Corpus Christi Sunday, there will be a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. There will be a 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral followed by a Eucharistic procession.

Young Catholic Professionals has launched. This is not an exclusive group. The purpose is to reach out to young Catholic adults. There is a team in place to connect and meet with each organization. It is not just social, but involves formation. This is just one component of our duty to reach out to young people.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 3:00 p.m.