

April 22, 2022

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Bishop Taylor who led the opening prayer.

In attendance: Bishop Anthony B. Taylor, Lloyd Cambre, Fr. John Connell, VG, Adrian Dominguez, Dcn. Matt Glover, Liz Tingquist, Roberto Martinez, Dennis Lee, Jeff Hines, Greg Wolfe, Fr. Juan Guido, Anabel Garcia, Sr. Mickey Espinoza, MCP, and Amanda Pizzo.

Not in attendance: Dcn. Steve Mallet, Dr. Karen Hollenbeck, Vice Chair, Paul James, Chair, and Alma Stewart.

Review and approval of previous meeting's minutes: The minutes of the January 28, 2022 meeting were approved by acclamation.

Old Business

Synod on Synodality Update - Liz Tingquist, Director of Catholic Youth and Campus Ministry

Liz Tingquist reported that she and Sr. Mickey Espinoza, MCP, Director of Hispanic Ministry, were in the process of drafting the ten (10) page summary of the Synod listening sessions in our diocese. Information submitted by individuals through the diocesan website was also being included. She said eleven (11) themes have emerged: community/fellowship; youth and young adult faith formation; desire for faith to be taught from the pulpit; need for Catholic support groups; need for priest presence, accountability, transparency, trust and communication; perception that the Church engages politically; rigidity of Church law, especially regarding divorce and annulment; judgment versus love; LGBTQ issues; rural parishes feel abandoned; and role of women. **Update: The final diocesan Synod summary was published on June 20 at www.dolr.org/read-diocese-synod-synodality-report.** Comments from the council members included that they and others in their local Catholic communities appreciate their priests, the sacramental life of the Church, and the opportunity to be heard. There was also some discussion about how parishioners, especially young people, relate to their priests, and time together is highly valued.

Eucharistic Revival Update- Fr. Juan Guido, Director of the Office of Divine Worship

Fr. Juan gave an overview of the plans for the Eucharistic Revival in our diocese. It will be a three (3) year process that begins on the Feast of Corpus Christi with Mass celebrated on Saturday, June 18 at 4:30 p.m. by Bishop Taylor at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Little Rock and at 5 p.m. by Fr. John Connell at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Rogers. The conclusion will be on Pentecost Sunday in 2025. **Update: There is a page on the diocesan website dedicated to the Eucharistic Revival in Arkansas that contains additional information and many excellent resources at www.dolr.org/eucharistic-revival.** Fr. Juan said he is working with a committee to create catechesis that will cover all groups of people in the Church to help them fall in love with the Eucharist. Jeff Hines, Director of Faith Formation, said their office would be helping catechists and parents understand the Eucharist so they can share it with others. Comments from the council members included highlighting various devotions to the Eucharist such as adoration and Eucharistic processions.

New Business

Project to Revise Sacramental Policies - Jeff Hines, Director of Faith Formation

Jeff briefed the council members on his work with Bishop Taylor, the priests, and the parish leaders in Faith Formation to update the sacramental policies for children and adults seeking the sacraments of initiation. The guidelines under review include Baptism, First Communion and First Reconciliation, and Confirmation. The goal is to simplify and clarify the policies, to emphasize sacramental preparation in the context of the living encounter with the Lord who transforms life and faith that deepens and matures in all stages of life, and to foster the involvement of parents in their children's journey of initiation. Jeff said there is a draft of the revised sacramental policies under discussion with the priests on the Presbyteral Council, and the timeline for completing this project is months away as more time is needed for gathering input and discernment. Comments from the council members included confirmation retreats being meaningful and the importance of parents being involved.

Guns in Church Policy – Bishop Taylor

Bishop Taylor consulted with the council members on whether raffling guns should be permitted by church entities. Various opinions were expressed. In response, Bishop Taylor thanked the council members for their input, and he said there were other groups he planned to consult with before making a policy decision.

Parish Security Plan – Lloyd Cambre

Lloyd said he would provide Bishop Taylor with final copies of documents his work group drafted: Church Security / Preparedness and a Template for a Parish Security / Preparedness Plan. This was Lloyd's last council meeting as Alan Halman is taking his place as the Knights of Columbus representative effective July 1.

Bishop Taylor's closing remarks

Bishop Taylor thanked the council members for meeting with him, and he announced that Sr. M. Cecilia Nguyen, OSB, had been appointed Minister for Religious effective July 1, and she will be taking the place of Mother Mary Clare Bezner, OSB, on the council.

Future Agenda Items

These can be sent to Paul James, Chair, Bishop Taylor, or Maria Velazquez in the Bishop's Office.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday, August 12 starting at 11 a.m. at St. John Catholic Center. The meeting room will be announced later.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Bishop Taylor closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer and it concluded at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dennis Lee, Chancellor for Administrative Affairs