

August 12, 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, Rev. John Connell, VG., Fr. Juan Guido, Dennis Lee, Sr. Mickey Espinoza, Greg Wolfe, Alan Halman, Alma Stewart, Sr. M. Cecilia Nguyen, Dr. Karen Hollenbeck, Adrián Dominguez, Jeff Hines, Paul James and Roberto Martínez.

Not in attendance: Dcn. Matt Glover, Dcn. Steve Mallett, Anabel Garcia.

Review and approval of previous meeting's minutes: The minutes of the April 22, 2022 meeting were approved by acclamation.

Old Business

Sacramental Policy For Confirmation – Jeff Hines, Director of Faith Formation

Jeff Hines provided drafts of two documents for discussion: Requirements for Confirmation and Sacramental Preparation Policies Pastoral Manual for the Diocese of Little Rock. He is reviewing Sacramental Policies with the Presbyteral Council, and yesterday he reviewed Confirmation with them. Comments from the council members included a discussion about the age requirement (14 years old in the Diocese of Little Rock) and the meaning of “being a practicing catholic in good standing” for sponsors. There was also some discussion about considering a retreat format versus a traditional classroom approach for preparation. Several council members emphasized the need to reach young Catholics by being open to creative approaches.

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

Fr. Juan Guido shared the following information: Bishop Taylor’s next message for the Masses September 10-11 will be about adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The men’s conference at Christ The King in Little Rock in January will be on the Eucharistic Revival. In 2023 there will be two regional Masses on a Saturday when there will be no evening Mass in the parishes: June 3 in NW Arkansas and June 10 in Little Rock. All priests will concelebrate at these regional Masses.

Bishop Taylor announced that St. Edward Church in Little Rock will be designated as a *Templo Expiatorio* Shrine.

There is a page on the diocesan website with more information and resources for the Eucharistic Revival in Arkansas 2022-25, including videos of Bishop Taylor’s messages, that can be found at <https://www.dolr.org/eucharistic-revival>.

New Business

Parish Training Network – Jeff Hines, Director of Faith Formation

Jeff Hines provided a handout that explains the three components of Parish Leader and Catechist Training: 1) Formation Days, 2) learn.dolr.org online learning, and 3) Diocese – Issued Certifications. He is working with Sister Mickey Espinoza, MCP, Director of Hispanic Ministry. The presentations and content will be in English and Spanish. The plan is to have 3 Saturdays per year that begin at 9 am with prayer, breakout sessions, lunch, and close with that evening's Vigil Mass. Jeff said these training and formation days will not replace what parishes are doing for catechist formation. More information in English and Spanish can be found on the website: <https://learn.dolr.org>.

Bishop Taylor's Remarks

Bishop Taylor said that the Presbyteral Council is taking up the major themes from our diocesan synod summary. The topic of "Community and Fellowship" was discussed by Fr. Joseph Friend with the Presbyteral Council yesterday. There was discussion by the council members about how to notice people who are homebound or sick; how to connect people within a parish, and how to help the marginalized feel more welcome and included by the church. There was general agreement on personal contact as being important, even as simple as a phone call, to show concern as missionary disciples.

Bishop Taylor concluded his remarks by saying he wanted the fruits of the synod process in our diocese to have an impact. This is why the Presbyteral Council will take time to discuss and follow-up on the major themes that surfaced in our diocese.

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, November 11 at 11:00 am at St. John Catholic Center in the large meeting room in Fletcher Hall.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Bishop Taylor closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer and a blessing at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dennis Lee, Chancellor for Administrative Affairs