

Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon
Archdiocesan Pastoral Council
MINUTES
November 17, 2018
St. Joseph's Parish, Salem

Present:

Archbishop Alexander Sample, Clint Bentz, Eileen Clarkson, Alicia Garcia, Deacon Jerry Giger, Josh Jones, Gloria Lyons, Pamela McLean, Phoebe Meister, Fr. Cary Reniva, Paul Wilson

Staff present: Todd Cooper; Msgr. Charles Lienert

Absent:

Dawn Crow, Michael Ferry, Fr. John Henderson, Terrance Merritt, Frank Rego, Bishop Peter Smith, Nancy Smith, Patrick Walsh, Jesse Villarreal.

Archbishop Sample offered Mass. Clint Bentz called the meeting to order following Mass.

Approval of Minutes & Agenda /Executive Committee Report

The Minutes of the Sept. 29, 2018 meeting were approved with a correction on p. 4: change “youth” ministry” to “young adult” ministry in the SE Portland Vicariate report.

Annual Vicariate Meetings of Pastoral Councils

West Portland Suburban – Eileen Clarkson

Seven parishes represented. 34 people attended. Jason Kidd from the Pastoral Center attended. Of the six pastoral priorities, the vicariate focused on vocations. Together, it was felt, they could make a bigger statement & impact. Bring up the topic as early as middle school. Utilize the Pope's call to holiness. To the Archbishop: the catechesis of young adults is difficult. Some felt that not blessing people in the Communion line was a step backward. The Archbishop clarified that extraordinary ministers and priests could say: “May Christ be with you,” without making a gesture, instead of offering a blessing. Lay people are not supposed to give blessings in liturgical settings.

Archbishop Sample's Report on the USCCB November Meeting

Three business items apart from the abuse scandal:

1. Approved pastoral letter against racism: Open wide our Hearts
2. Move forward with beatification of African American Sr. Thea Bowman
3. Eliminate “mission” status of the Diocese of Juneau

Sex Abuse Scandal

In the Archbishop's letter to the people of the Archdiocese of Portland about the scandal, he identified four things that needed to happen:

1. Bishops must be held to the same standards of conduct as priests & anyone else
2. Outside review process needed with experts & lay people
3. Investigate those who knew
4. Investigate all reports of abuse

The US Bishops were prepared to debate and vote on four things:

1. Creating a hotline for reports against a bishop for a) abuse of minor b) sexual misconduct or harassment with anyone c) mishandling or coverup of abuse by a bishop
2. Standards of episcopal conduct – bishops bind themselves to them with signature
3. Third party investigation commission – independent, mostly lay, experts. Provision for certain members to participate, i.e. victim survivor, woman religious, etc.
4. If a bishop is removed, what to do with him

Leading up to the meeting, there was no discussion of the McCarrick investigation. A resolution proposed at the meeting that Rome release all documents related to the scandal failed.

The US Bishops were directed by the Holy See not to vote on these things. Rationale given was that the Pope has called for a February 2019 meeting of the heads of all the national bishops' conferences from throughout the world. Rome wanted US to wait to act until after that meeting. The bishops were caught off guard by the move.

The Archbishop assured the APC of the seriousness with which the bishops are taking this matter. Lots of concern and emphasis on the victims – can't lose sight of those who suffered. Whole first day of the meeting spent in prayer. The bishops know their credibility is on the line. They must build trust with their people. The Archbishop has met with many victims and been very moved. Archbishop will focus on what he can do here in our archdiocese to keep children safe and prevent abuse from happening.

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Ricky Shoop, Coord. Of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese introduced himself and his family at the meeting. Office focus is leadership development. He was attracted by the idea that an encounter with Christ is the heart of what the Archdiocese does. Handbook of Y.M was developed. Find at: youth.archdpx.org. Accompaniment and encounter are key. Knowing someone individually is key. Relationships are key. Church must walk together with young people toward Christ. Office initiatives include: youth ministers are subject to burnout so offer day retreats. Identify formational opportunities and connect regularly. Establish evangelization boot camp, a short, intense training/retreat. Accompany youth ministers. Don't yet have a connection with every parish, but most. Shift away from big events. They are useful and there is a place for them, but they are not the "bread and butter" of youth ministry. Currently, Jason Kidd is handling young adult ministry. Set a vision for connecting small circles of friends.

APC Discussion of the Sex Abuse Scandal

- Renewal, reform and purification is needed. The scandal has rocked many people, and this one is on the bishops.
- It has affected religious orders. God is not interested in our comfort, but our conversion.
- Isn't it time to call on the Holy Spirit? How about one day of adoration per month?
- On some level, victims want to find healing in the Church because that's where the wound is from.
- Most don't know what the Dallas Charter is.
- A video from the heart in English and Spanish answering: "Why do you stay in the Church?"
- Have listening sessions at the parishes. Priests must be there.

- Compassion and service to the poor gives credibility in the long run.

Catholic Leadership Gathering & the Pastoral Assembly

There is a desire to organize a large Catholic leadership gathering in the diocese. Should this be a separate event than the assembly? Organizing two separate events would be difficult. Add a day onto the leadership gathering for the assembly. The leadership gathering should be based on parish delegations. This would form the bulk of the people.

The planned discussion on divisiveness and overcoming it in the light of faith was tabled until next meeting due to not enough time.

Archbishop's Report

- Thank you! It was good to hear the council's input. Please be agents and ambassadors of hope and encouragement for the people.
- Seminarians are screened with psych evals and criminal background checks. They are monitored through human formation.
- Victims must remain at the forefront. Cathy Shannon, Child Protection Officer, and the Archbishop will meet with any victim. The Archbishop apologizes to victims on behalf of the Church.
- A credible accusation is one that is believable, but not substantiated. Substantiated claim means guilt has been determined through admission or judgment.
- The crisis has caused the Archbishop to do some soul-searching. He wants to begin to shape his ministry differently. Become closer to the people and the priests. Doesn't want to be a "CEO bishop", but a shepherd and a pastor. Become less of an administrator and more of a pastor.
- The Archbishop's Catholic Appeal remains at 82% of goal.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Next meeting of the APC: Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019.