

January 28, 2022

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 11:11 a.m. by the Chair, Paul James. Bishop Anthony B. Taylor led the group in praying the Synod Prayer together.

In attendance: Bishop Anthony B. Taylor, Paul James, Chair, Lloyd Cambre, Fr. John Connell, VG, Adrian Dominguez, Dcn. Matt Glover, Dr. Karen Hollenbeck, Liz Tingquist, Sr. Mary Clare Bezner, OSB, Roberto Martinez, Alma Stewart, Greg Wolfe, Sr. Mickey Espinoza, MCP, Dennis Lee, Jeff Hines, Fr. Jon Miskin, Fr. Juan Guido, Anabel Garcia, and Amanda Pizzo.

Not in attendance: Dcn. Steve Mallet

Review and approval of previous meeting's minutes: The minutes of the November 12, 2021, meeting were accepted as written by acclamation.

Old Business

Synod on Synodality Update - Liz Tingquist, Sr. Mickey Espinoza, MCP

Liz Tingquist said things are going well with the Synod listening sessions in our diocese. Parishes have begun hosting them, and some are using Zoom. All the packets have been sent out. There is a Synod on Synodality page on the DOLR website, including a feature for parishes to report and for individuals to respond with the option of remaining anonymous. Liz said she and Sister Mickey Espinoza, MCP, will be making parish visits to help any way they can with listening sessions.

Parish Security Plan - Lloyd Cambre

Lloyd Cambre reviewed the drafts of the documents for Church Security / Preparedness and a Template for a Parish Security / Preparedness Plan. He asked the council members to take a month to review these documents and return any comments to him. Once these documents are finalized, they will be submitted to Bishop Taylor who asked for ideas on how to implement. He said, "How to communicate?" and "What do we do next?" are questions he would like to bring up again for discussion at a future meeting. There were some comments about how to help parishes deal with situations like tornados or medical emergencies such that it is part of their culture.

New Business

Young Adult Ministry - Fr. Jon Miskin

Fr. Jon Miskin gave an overview of the need for a ministry for young adult Catholics in Northwest Arkansas (NW AR). He referred to young adults as being "after college" up to age 39. He said it is common to hear we need to reach out to this group that does not feel heard or seen and that lacks a sense of community. A challenge is how to build up a communal way of life with this group that experiences not belonging and being alone. He talked about some successes they are having in NW AR with various groups. Some of these have started strong, then faltered with leadership changes and inconsistency. Fr. Miskin said the greatest thing the church can offer is stability and a center for

communal life. He proposed a diocesan position for a ministry with young adult Catholics in NW AR that would allow for a deanery-wide presence. He said young adult Catholics do not always have a parish and tend to move around, so a diocesan minister could draw them to Christ and the church. The council members were supportive of Fr. Miskin's proposal and expressed appreciation for his commitment to young adult Catholics.

June 19, 2022, Launch of National Eucharistic Revival (Feast of Corpus Christi) - Fr. Juan Guido

Fr. Juan Guido, Director of the Office of Divine Worship, gave an overview of the documents that were released from the USCCB for the Eucharistic Revival. This will be a two-year process that will begin on the Feast of Corpus Christi and conclude in 2024 with the first National Eucharistic Congress in fifty years. Fr. Guido spoke about information that is currently available via EucharisticRevival.com and how the process will roll out. He also spoke about the need to create a committee to plan and execute what will take place in our diocese.

Bishop Taylor's closing remarks

Bishop Taylor said he was grateful for the Diocesan Pastoral Council's hard work. He asked for everyone to continue to pray for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic, and in particular for all the vulnerable people who need to be kept safe.

Future Agenda Items

These can be sent to Paul James, Bishop Taylor, or Maria Velazquez.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday, April 22 at 11 a.m.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Bishop Taylor closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting ended at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Paul James, Chair of the Diocesan Pastoral Council

Dennis Lee, Chancellor for Administrative Affairs