

Minutes of the Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting
On Friday, April 12, 2019

The meeting began at 11 a.m. at St. John Catholic Center – Biltz Room, in Morris Hall.

Gathering / Prayer

Mr. Jeff Hines, the Chair for the Council, opened the meeting, and Bishop Taylor led the group in prayer.

Welcome New Member

Bishop Taylor introduced and welcomed Fr. John Connell, Pastor at St. Raphael, Springdale and St. Joseph, Tontitown. He was recently appointed Vicar General by Bishop Taylor, a position previously held by Msgr. Scott Friend. Fr. Connell was warmly welcomed by all.

In Attendance

Bishop Anthony Taylor
Fr. John Connell
Msgr. Francis I. Malone
Dcn. Matt Glover
Dennis Lee
Greg Wolfe
Cynthia Solis

Sr. Norma E. Muñoz, MCP
Roberto Martinez
Adrian Dominguez
Lloyd Cambre
Alma Stewart
Dr. Karen Hollenbeck
Jeff Hines
Maria Velazquez (staff)

Not Present

Sr. Mary Clare Bezner, OSB

Dcn. Efran Vargas

Review and Approval of Minutes

All agreed to accept the Minutes of the January 25, 2019 meeting as posted on the diocesan web site.

Old Business

One Church Project Report (Patrick Gallaher, Executive Director for Catholic Charities of Arkansas)

Mr. Patrick Gallaher explained Catholic Charities of Arkansas' role in promoting One Church, an initiative originally put forth by the Presbyteral Council. St. Luke in Warren is the beneficiary this year that runs Sept. 1, 2018 – August 30, 2019. They are in the midst of a Capital Campaign to renovate a former co-op building for their church and parish facilities, which Bishop Taylor said is underway and progressing well. Catholic Extension has awarded them a matching grant of up to \$130,000. For every \$1 raised up to \$65,000 Catholic Extension will match with \$2.

Mr. Greg Wolfe, Director of Finance, explained that Catholic Extension's mission involves helping mission dioceses and parishes with building projects and ministries (for example, funding religious sisters). He said Catholic Extension raises and gives away millions of dollars, they will only do matching grants for construction projects, and Bishop Taylor sits on their Board.

Mr. Lloyd Cambre said the Knights of Columbus will talk about One Church at their upcoming State Convention and he expects a donation will be approved.

Mr. Gallaher said Holy Spirit Church in Hamburg is the next Catholic Community to be helped through One Church beginning Sept 1, 2019. A question was asked about how a parish can get on the list for One Church, and Bishop Taylor said that a parish could be brought up by talking with a member of the Presbyteral Council or a member of this group.

There is a page on the diocesan web site, www.dolr.org/one-church, with resources to support One Church. This page includes an option for donating online, a video about St. Luke church with their Pastor, Fr. Eddie D'Almeida, and a "Parish Toolkit" with promotional resources that are available in English and Spanish.

Update on Spiritual Health of Young Adults (Liz Tingquist, Director of Catholic Youth Ministry and Catholic Campus Ministry)

Mrs. Liz Tingquist provided handouts and reported on her efforts to work with young adult Catholics in the diocese. In her comments she mentioned that the groups around the state are open to assistance from the diocese. Attendance in the groups fluctuates because some age out. They are always looking for new members. All groups would like the diocese to help increase their visibility and they would welcome diocesan resources. Mrs. Tingquist said maybe a diocesan-wide event or a retreat experience could be organized through her office.

Mr. Jeff Hines has accompanied Mrs. Tingquist on her visits with the groups in NW Arkansas. He said they were excited and encouraged by the young adults they met. There is interest in a vital ministry with diocesan involvement. Their next step will be to do some strategic planning, and they are thinking about having a leadership group to help at the diocesan level.

Mr. Roberto Martinez said what they are doing is very important. Mr. Hines stated that it is good that Ms. Cynthia Solis is on this Council to serve as a representative for young adult Catholics. Ms. Solis said she will be glad to do whatever she can to help Mrs. Tingquist and Mr. Hines. Mr. Greg Wolfe suggested that Bishop Taylor might consider inviting the priests who were ordained in the last five years to meet with Mrs. Tingquist and Mr. Hines because they are closer in age and can speak the language of younger adults.

Catholic Schools Update (Mrs. Ileana Dobbins, Associate Superintendent)

Mrs. Ileana Dobbins provided a written report that is attached. With regard to St. Edward School in Little Rock closing, Mr. Adrian Dominguez asked what will happen to the school buildings? Mrs. Dobbins said the pastor and the parish will decide. Mr. Roberto Martinez asked about the pay for Catholic School teachers. Mrs. Dobbins said the scale is 80% of what the public schools pay their teachers. Some Catholic Schools pay less, and the pay in Catholic Schools results in some teachers going to the public schools.

Ozark Catholic Academy in Northwest Arkansas (Fr. John Connell, Vicar General)

The Ozark Catholic Academy opened in the fall of 2018, and it is located on the premises of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Tontitown where they started with grades 9 and 10, and will add the 11th grade next school year. Fr. John Connell is their pastor, and he said this independent Catholic school opened with 23 students, and it increased to 25. He said some people have the

misperception that it is a diocesan school, and he has to remind them that it is not. He also mentioned that the school has to engage in fundraising for its finances to work. They are hoping to have 50 students enrolled in the fall of 2019 which will be a financial challenge. The school has a strong contingency of people supporting it, and their board is comprised of representatives from the parishes in Northwest Arkansas. The school is working towards accreditation with the Arkansas Non-Public School Accrediting Association (ANSAA).

New Business

Discussion about whether the diocese needs a program to minister to victims of abuse in general regardless of who the perpetrator is (not just victims of clergy). If so, what should it look like? (Dcn. Matt Glover, Chancellor for Canonical Affairs)

Dcn. Glover started by saying the annual diocesan Mass of Hope and Healing is for victims of sexual abuse. He then shared information about the Maria Goretti Network (MGN) for Recovery and Forgiveness from their website: <https://www.mgoretti.org>. Founded in the Diocese of Tyler, TX, the MGN reaches out to all sexual abuse victims, their families, and those who support their recovery. Their chapter meetings are only for adults. Dcn. Glover said when discussed with the Presbyteral Council, they suggested bringing in someone from the Tyler Diocese to talk with them. The consensus of this Council was that the MGN was a good idea to pursue, and they thought if its leaders and spiritual advisors were not required to be trained, our diocese should consider having a training requirement.

Should we attempt a diocesan response to the pornography epidemic: If so, what?

Bishop Taylor mentioned that the Spring Continuing Education Program for the Clergy focused on the pornography epidemic. The presenter talked about how it is a problem for marriages, what it can do to a person's brain chemistry, and all the problems connected with its easy access. Bishop Taylor said he was interested in this Council's thoughts on what our diocese might do. Mr. Martinez said we need to figure out how to educate people about the harm pornography causes. For people having problems related to pornography, he wondered who they could see for help? Other dioceses have some resources, such as the "Bought with a Price" Pastoral Letter written by Bishop Emeritus Paul Loverde in the Diocese of Arlington. No concrete proposal came out of this discussion, and Bishop Taylor asked the group to continue to think about it.

Other Business

Church Security (Mr. Roberto Martinez)

Mr. Martinez asked what can be done to keep people safe, for example, when the church is full of people at Mass? Bishop Taylor mentioned our diocese's policy that prohibits guns in churches. Mr. Hines suggested having a discussion about church security on the agenda for a future meeting.

Catholic Arkansas Sharing Appeal (Bishop Taylor)

Bishop Taylor said that next time he would like to talk about CASA because the amount raised is going down. He said he would like for CASA to be more viable, and he wondered what could be done for this to happen?

Future Agenda Items

Please forward future agenda items to Bishop Taylor, Jeff Hines or Maria Velázquez.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Bishop Taylor closed the meeting with prayer and a blessing.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 2 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Catholic Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Lee

Chancellor for Administrative Affairs