

Minutes of the Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting
January 25, 2019
(*The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle*)

11:20 a.m.

Mr. Jeff Hines opened the meeting and welcomed Adrian Dominguez to his first meeting. Bishop Taylor led prayer.

In Attendance

Bishop Anthony B. Taylor	Sr. Norma E. Muñoz, MCP	Dr. Karen Hollenbeck
Msgr. Scott Friend	Sr. Mary C. Bezner, OSB	Jeff Hines
Msgr. Francis I. Malone	Adrian Dominguez	Paul James
Dcn. Matt Glover	Dcn. Efraín Vargas	Roberto Martínez
Dennis Lee	Lloyd Cambre	
Greg Wolfe	Alma Stewart	

Not Present

Cynthia Solis

Review and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Roberto Martinez moved that the November 30 minutes be accepted and all agreed.

Review of Draft Constitution

Mr. Jeff Hines referred to the 2nd draft of the Constitution enclosed in the packet that had been updated. Mr. Adrian Dominguez moved the changes be accepted and Mr. Paul James seconded the motion. Bishop Taylor proceeded to sign and date acceptance of the Constitution.

Update on the clergy sexual abuse crisis

Dc. Matt Glover reported that Kinsale Management Consulting group had brought in an additional seven people this week as they work on finalizing their review of Diocesan clergy personnel files. Bishop Taylor said the plan is to provide a statement from him as a bulletin insert the weekend of February 9-10. The bulletin insert will direct people to the diocesan web site for more information, which will include a statement on how allegations were handled prior to 2002 and some kind of summary letter of 1 – 2 pages from Kinsale. Dc. Glover will also contact the Attorney General's Office regarding the conclusion of the Kinsale review.

Sacramental Policies (Fr. Erik Pohlmeier)

Fr. Erik Pohlmeier reported that since becoming Director of Faith Formation at the Diocese he has become aware that we need to update the sacramental policies in the diocese. First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation were last updated in 2004 and there is no policy for Baptism. There were drafts done while Msgr. Hebert was Diocesan Administrator but were never promulgated. Fr. Pohlmeier said he has started working on a draft of each and asked for input as to what we have and what are the frustrations. How do we provide support for the struggles? There are people in the parishes who are disconnected. The most common form of disconnect is people who want their children to receive the sacraments but they themselves don't go to church. The policies we have are outdated; he has been gathering information and has gone to conferences. Questions raised are "What is the church's vision? What is the role of

parents? What affects religious development of the child?” There is no second – parents only are the first and greatest influence. Sacramental preparation and policy must reflect these realities. We need policies that are helpful. A sacrament is not a milestone. We must celebrate a sacrament as a step in the deepening of Catholic life and parents are essential. We need to draft practical policies – the goal is to commit to a life of faith and the “how to” will be a lengthy process with no time frame. It is very important that we get parents involved; the real goal is a common foundation for sacraments. Mr. Adrian Dominguez offered to provide some pamphlets the Kof C has available.

One Church project report

Dennis Lee reported for Patrick Gallaher on this year’s campaign for St. Luke Church in Warren. They have bought a 15,512 square foot building on 7.53 acres that will be converted to a new church with office and classrooms and a future hall and kitchen. Dennis distributed a handout along with an architect’s drawing of the planned conversion. The goal is for St. Luke Parish to receive support from as many parishes, Catholic groups and individuals as possible to help them reach a goal of \$500,000 raised.

St. Luke has received a \$130,000 Catholic Extension Challenge Grant that will match \$2 for every \$1 raised on or after December 6, 2018. New funds must be raised by October 1, 2019 to qualify, and it will take \$65,000 in new funds to receive all \$130,000 from Catholic Extension.

Also, the parish has a Capital Campaign underway that has \$253,000 in pledges so far.

Spiritual Health of young adults in our communities (Jeff Hines)

Jeff Hines called attention to a handout in the packet about a proposal to look into the spiritual health of the young adult community (ages 20 – 35) who leave the church and don’t come back. A chart showed that the young adult group was the age group least likely to attend church. Mr. Hines asked what do we need to do for Catholic young adults in our communities? Mr. Dominguez volunteered that when young adults leave home and don’t go to church they are searching for something he called a “faith void” and asked what we as Catholics can do to encourage them to come back to church.

Dennis mentioned that Liz Tingquist, Director of Youth Ministry and Campus Ministry at the diocese, recently received Bishop Taylor’s approval to help young Catholic adult groups to publicize and coordinate their efforts. A new page on the diocesan web site is planned. As a follow up, Dennis will arrange for Jeff and Liz to meet to discuss working together.

Proposal from Arkansas Catholic for changes in their focus (Dennis Lee, Aprille Hanson)

Aprille Hanson, Associate Editor, reported their office is trying to reach more people by using digital projects and Malea Hargett, Editor, is proposing a change in the schedule of the weekly *Arkansas Catholic* to a biweekly paper and adding a quarterly magazine each season. They have 5,000 weekly subscribers; a magazine delivered to parishes would reach 55,000 people. Young people would be more likely to pick up the magazine which would be in English and flipped over in Spanish. A magazine would not be as timely as a weekly newspaper but would have more features and in-depth articles.

The goal is to get information into the hands of more people by offering the magazine free to parishes. Advertising would cover the cost of the magazines. Bishop Taylor has suggested the digital version of the newspaper be free to all in the diocese with an e-mail address. Anyone who wants a physical paper could pay for a subscription. The discussion that followed favored maintaining a weekly newspaper and not adding a quarterly magazine.

Respect Life report

Bishop Taylor reported the Mass for Life went well. The first Conference for Life was at St. John Catholic Center in Fletcher Hall the day before. The Procession for Life through Riverfront Park on Sunday began at 10:00 a.m.; the young people were quiet and respectful. Mass was at noon in the Robinson Auditorium.

It was also noted that this year's speaker at the Rally for Life at the State Capitol was appropriate.

Safe Haven Law

Mr. Lloyd Cambre called attention to a Respect Life issue in a different light. Several states, including Arkansas, have adopted a Safe Haven Law. If a baby is less than 30 days old, the parent can place their baby in a "Safe Haven baby box" (newborn safety device) located at a police station or a medical provider and not be prosecuted. **Update: On 2/20/19 the governor signed Act 185 adding fire departments as a permitted location for the "Safe Haven baby boxes" in Arkansas.**

State of Catholic Schools in Arkansas (Theresa Hall)

Theresa Hall, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said that Catholic Schools Week is January 27 – February 2 this year with the theme "Learn, Serve, Lead, Succeed." There are 6,643 students enrolled which is down 63 students compared to last year. The new Ozark Catholic Academy has 25 students in 9th and 10th grades. They hope to add 11th grade next year. In response to a question, Theresa replied there is no minimum number of students required to open a parish school. There are six schools that Catholic School Management is helping to provide a strategic and sustainable plan over five years. They are St. John in Hot Springs, St. Edward and St. Theresa in Little Rock, North Little Rock Academy and Immaculate Heart of Mary in North Little Rock and Sacred Heart in Morrilton.

The funds raised through the Catholic Schools Scholarship Appeal helps where the greatest and most need is - tuition. Three years ago \$21,500 was awarded to 9 schools and helped 49 students. Eighteen parishes without a Catholic School contributed to that effort. Already \$31,000 has been raised for next year.

St. Edward School

St. Edward Catholic School is under the direction of the diocesan Catholic Schools Office staff. There is no principal; two teachers are the lead teachers for the school. There are 98 students registered for enrollment next year. A decision will be made by mid-February whether or not the school will open next year. A lot of the families live out of the area of the school. **Update: It was announced on February 27 that St. Edward Catholic School will close at the end of May because, due to declining enrollment and other factors, it is not financially viable.**

Meeting Wrap-up

Bishop Taylor reported the October Mass count showed that English Mass attendance was down about 4,000 and Spanish Mass attendance stayed about the same (or some leave and others take their place). Younger people are not attending. Latin Mass attendee numbers are declining more than any other group.

A question was asked if it would be desirable to publish meeting minutes on the web site. The answer was yes, once approved.

Dennis Lee and Jeff Hines will work together on getting the minutes on the web site.

Future Agenda Items

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

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Bishop Taylor led the Closing Prayer and blessed the group.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 12 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Catholic Center.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Worm, Secretary to

Dennis Lee

Chancellor for Administrative Affairs