

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council
Meeting Summary
January 18, 2020
Conference Call

Present: Archbishop William E. Lori, Mr. Richard Babbitt, Ms. Chelsea Baranoski, Ms. Anita Cain, Ms. Stephanie Clancy, Ms. Cynthia Clarke, Ms. Elaine McCubbin, Ms. Sara Miller, Ms. Camilla Rawe, Mr. Larry Simmons, Mr. Alexander Wright, Deacon Christopher Yeung

Excused: Ms. Gloria Olivares, Ms. Consuelo Petro and Mr. Jesus Eusebio Perez

Guests: Dr. Diane Barr, and Ms. Mary Ellen Russell

Guidance Document

Members had previously reviewed the initial Guiding Principles document and were invited to add any additional comments so the final draft can be shared with the members prior to their next meeting.

- There were several comments that indicated a concern about the role of the Executive Committee. The question was whether such a committee is necessary at this time.

Communication with Parishes

Members had been invited to consider how it would be best to communicate with their regions and with parishes. The discussion included the following observations:

- Would also be **important to introduce the APC** and its purpose to parishes and parishioners so they would know it existed;
- **The topic for the survey should be why former Catholics are no longer in the Church but it is important to avoid making the questions too broad or duplicating the efforts of others;**
- **An on-line survey would be a good way to start, but a paper version of the survey would have to be available** if folks wanted to do it that way;
- **The paper survey would help older parishioners participate;**
- **Either kind of survey could be mentioned and/or distributed before or after Mass on Sunday** to encourage participation;
- It will be **important to be clear about what the survey is trying to accomplish** and the APC goals for the survey itself;
- **Need to be sure that questions are narrow and tailored** for obtaining relevant information; and
- **May be able to use Flocknote or other social media tools that already exist** to accomplish survey goals.

It was agreed that a small working group made up of willing APC members would work on this project with Mrs. Mary Ellen Russell.

Statute of Limitations

Archbishop Lori and Mrs. Russell gave the members an update on the proposal to change the statute of limitations for civil actions for those who have been sexually abused as children.

Reflections on the Office of Child and Youth Protection Presentation

Members were invited to comment on the November presentation regarding the work of the Archdiocese of Baltimore for the protection of children and youth. The discussion included:

- **Presentation by Mrs. Burkhardt was excellent** and provided important information;
- **Important to continue to educate all Catholics** about these issues;
- **Good to have Ms. Burkhardt speak at individual parishes** about these issues;
- **Would be good to have a presentation for all parish pastoral councils** on this issue;
- **Could the Archdiocese of Baltimore put together a video or other media presentation to help others understand these issues?**
- **A handout summarizing efforts could go in bulletins;**
- **A PowerPoint presentation could also be given to parish groups or whole parishes;**
- **Need to inform more people about what is actually being done;**
- **Would be wise to establish a safe place for people to come who have been abused by others or who know someone who has been abused by others;**
- **Important to work on healing the whole church;**
- **Important to listen and listen deeply to support victim healing; and**
- **Important to speak directly to those who have had the experience of abuse.**

Next meeting will be on Saturday, February 29, 2020 in Annapolis. Mrs. Russell will be in contact with all with further details.