



## **Archdiocesan Pastoral Council**

### **Minutes**

**April 29, 2020**

**via Zoom**

**Present:** Archbishop William E. Lori, Mr. Richard Babbitt, Ms. Chelsea Baranoski, Ms. Anita Cain, Ms. Stephanie Clancy, Ms. Cynthia Clarke, Ms. Consuelo Petro, Mr. Larry Simmons, Ms. Elaine McCubbin, Ms. Sara Miller, Ms. Gloria Olivares, Mr. Jesus Eusebio Perez, Ms. Camilla Rawe, Mr. Alexander Wright, Dcn. Christopher Yeung

**Excused:** None.

**Guests:** Dr. Diane Barr, Mr. Sean Caine and Ms. Mary Ellen Russell

Archbishop Lori called the meeting to order after leading the group in a prayer

#### **I. Update on Church Efforts After Closure Due to Health Emergency**

Archbishop Lori introduced the current situation where everyone has had to react to the COVID-19 pandemic. He indicated that parishes are using connectivity to reach out to the church as well as the unchurched. He stated Mr. Caine would provide the members with a summary of the work being done to support parishes and parishioners and then the APC Members would be asked the same three questions as the members of the Presbyteral Council. The questions to be addressed are:

- How we should implement a phased reopening of the parishes;
- What have we learned that we will want to bring into the future; and
- What support should we bring into the effort?

Mr. Caine provided the members with an overview of the efforts currently underway to assist parishes with their on-line presence, their outreach to parishioners in other ways and their financial situations through applying for PPP loans.

#### **Member Comments on Questions Posed by Archbishop Lori:**

- Important to continue outreach to all groups during these difficult times;

- Electronic outreach is very important in reaching out to the NONES as well as to our own parishioners;
- Will be important to continue electronic efforts in the future;
- Important to allow individual parishes some autonomy since their local situations will likely be different regarding employees, etc.;
- PPP loans will be important to all parishes since many will face financial issues without in-person worship;
- Is good to have on-line worship available since this has allowed families to gather regardless of their ability to attend in person;
- Have been making prayer together as a family at home a priority in these difficult times;
- Need to provide parishes and clergy with guidance and help when dealing with large and small groups of people during the health emergency;
- Especially concerned about manner in which the Eucharist will be distributed given the need for social distancing and desire to avoid spreading the virus;
- Need to help parishioners know that virus can be deadly to our priests as well as to other parishioners so they need to observe health protocols;
- Is very important to give people resources they can use at home with their children or family since the “domestic church” is so essential in the practice of the faith now;
- Need to remember those who are immune-compromised and unable to come to Church at all – important to find a way to bring the Eucharist to them;
- Praying the rosary is a great family activity;
- Should reach out to Hispanic families with resources in Spanish as well as English;
- Important to keep up the list of parishes that are livestreaming or posting their Masses on-line so folks can find these when they are needed; and
- Will be important for Church leaders to let people know they are missed at Easter this year and that we hope to return in the future.

Archbishop Lori thanked the Members for their comments and their time and led them in a prayer after closing the meeting.