



## **Archdiocesan Pastoral Council**

### **Minutes**

**June 16, 2020**

### **Zoom Meeting**

**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

**Excused:** Dcn. Christopher Yeung

**Guests:** Dr. Diane Barr, Ms. Mary Ellen Russell and Msgr. Jay O'Connor

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

#### **I. Reopening Parishes Due to Health Emergency**

Archbishop Lori and other staff from the Catholic Center updated the Members on the efforts related to keeping parishes open under the current health restrictions including the financial challenges parishes have been facing.

#### **Members Perspectives:**

- The members indicated that they were concerned about parish finance, attendance, and registration for Mass and the proper training of staff as Mass opened at each location;
- Members shared their personal experiences of Mass in their own parish if it had reopened recently;
- Generally, the experiences at parishes have been positive;
- It was noted that some parishes have not reopened yet and that they are working with their communities to do so when it is appropriate; and
- There was some concern about what effects the lack of funds in parishes would affect the ability to minister in parishes in the future.

## **II. Archdiocese of Baltimore Racism Initiative**

**Archbishop Lori and Mrs. Russell briefed the members on the plans to move forward with the Archbishop Pastoral Letter on racism entitled “The Journey to Racial Justice: Repentance, Healing and Action”.**

- Looking to address racism in a systematic way in our parishes and institutions;
- Have asked Ms. Sherita Thomas to serve as Interim Director of the Office of Black Catholics;
- With the help of Ms. Thomas and a group of consultants we will begin launching efforts to implement the Archbishop’s pastoral letter on racial justice; and
- Consultants should be meeting with APC and other groups so we can move forward with the efforts to go forward.

### **Members Perspectives**

- Situation with Mr. George Floyd was terrible but it has opened a broader discussion about the role of police in society versus looking at the systemic sources of racism;
- Has forced us to discuss where our resources are going – what has happened is not just in one place, but also in many different places.
- All have to look at the path of Justice in these situations;
- Important focus should be what the Archdiocese can do and what can the Catholic Church do about racism;
- How can we help achieve social justice now;
- Bishop Barron’s guidance toward Evangelization is a good model and can help;
- More training for police concerning mental health issues and anger management could help.

## **I. Discussion of Bishop Barron’s Video – Outreach to Unaffiliated Catholics**

**Archbishop Lori introduced the topic by indicating how helpful Bishop Barron’s ministry of Evangelization has been to the whole church.**

**The members had established a Task Force to review and guide the discussion of the group on the topic of Outreach to Unaffiliated Catholics as presented in Bishop Barron’s video on the subject. A different member of the Task Force introduced each of four themes from the video as springboards for discussion by the group.**

### **Members Perspectives**

#### **General Responses to the video:**

- Was a great video and we need to share it;
- Closing words of the video were great;
- Had a lot of “aha” moments while watching the video;
- Was great in helping Catholics to be ready to talk about their faith to others; what concrete things do you get from your faith;

- Video went into a lot of things; is a good tool to show people;
- How do we go beyond just the young people;
- Need to think about how we are going to use it;

## **The Path of Justice**

### **Members Perspectives**

- Would be great to harness the energy we are seeing in the streets;
- Both young and senior members should be prepared;
- Needs to be some way to determine who is there to make trouble and who is there to bring change;
- We need to tell people that the protesters are living the gospel by coming forward and working for change - need to embrace change;
- Young people looking to adults to live their faith and “lead by example”;
- Church is not just the walls of the building;
- What are we doing to bring justice outside our walls - these are opportunities for evangelization;
- Need to support folks in a passionate way – how will this affect your future in faith;
- Want to be able to recruit volunteers to participate later on at the parish level;
- Need to move the conversation forward both locally, etc.; and
- People amazed we do so much charity outside the Church that is open to all.

## **The Path of Beauty and Truth.**

### **Members Perspectives**

- Excited about this aspect of sharing our faith;
- Those things that are beautiful can be calming, relaxing and gives others joy;
- These things stir the heart and lift the soul, so if our faith is that kind of treasure our joy will be contagious;
- People won't argue about beauty - easy to share so can establish a relationship;
- Word on Fire Institute coming out with its own Bible; just came out with one Gospel; and
- Many people are comfortable talking to God in the woods because of the beauty of the place – can use this as part of evangelization.

## **The Path of New Media**

### **Members Perspectives:**

- Because of the limits of the pandemic a lot of people have come to a better understanding of how important this media is to supporting our faith and our Church;
- Can demonstrate the beauty of the church through our modern technology;
- Young people devoted to their phones;

- Need to share art-work and beauty as part of our faith – can use *Visio divina* as a way to combine beauty and faith;
- Lots of talks about faith available on U-Tube including Bishop Barron's talks about Stephen Hawking and Stephen Colbert;
- Can be opportunities for evangelization;
- Looking at ideas to use the media to reach out to young people since they use a variety of social media methods; and
- Good to have choices including theology on-tap; meeting parishioners on-line as well as powers of the media.

## **The Path of Parish Transformation**

### **Members Perspectives:**

- Was amazed with the video - everyone needs to see it;
- Was impressed with how different people see the church;
- Need to do something to help people learn who is God is and how they can bring God into their own life;
- We all need to be friendly at Mass and be open to meeting people and have people come back to you;
- We need to be inviting folks to participate in other areas of parish life;
- Easy to get caught up in regular activities;
- Need to get to know people's names and remember them;
- Important to be ready to share why you are Catholic;
- Cannot presume that everyone knows what is going on at church – is it an insider club; need to shift from maintenance to mission;
- Need to be able to share the many things that are great about being Catholic;
- Also need to ask what do we need to stop doing or what kinds of obstacles need to be removed for evangelization to happen;
- Important for us to stop just talking to the people we know but need to reach out to those we do not know; and
- Need to reach out of yourself and be prepared to acknowledge those who are different than we are.

## **IV. Next Meeting – Date and Topic**

- The members indicated that they would be open to meeting with Ms. Thomas and the Consultants about the initiative on Racism. They are willing to meet later this summer. Mrs. Russell will contact members with date and time for the meeting.