



ARCHDIOCESE  
of BALTIMORE

**Archdiocese Pastoral Council meeting  
Saturday, Feb. 18 by Zoom  
Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Archbishop William E. Lori, Mr. Andrew Likoudis, Ms. Elaine McCubbin, Ms. Sara Miller, Ms. Gloria Olivares, Mrs. Lee Anne Santiago, Mr. Larry Simmons and Mr. Alexander Wright.

**Excused:** Ms. Anita Cain, Mr. James Conway, Ms. Stephanie Clancy, Ms. Agnes Nepomuceno, Ms. Uju Okwesili, Ms. Consuelo Petro and Mrs. Annalynne Reddington.

**Guests:** Mr. Matt Anthony, Ms. Adrienne Curry, Monsignor Jay O'Connor, Ms. Yvonne Wenger and Mrs. Erin Younkins.

Archbishop Lori called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He offered welcoming remarks, led the group in prayer and provided a brief overview of some matters before lawmakers in Annapolis, including reducing BOOST scholarships, lifting the statute of limitations on civil lawsuits involving cases of child sexual abuse, authorizing physician-assisted suicide, and expanding abortion access in the Maryland and enshrining it in the constitution.

**Topics Addressed:**

**I. "In God's Image: A Racial Justice Journey for All"**

Adrienne Curry, director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministries, and Erin Younkins, director of the Office of Life, Justice and Peace, introduced this new archdiocesan initiative. Ms. Curry explained that the initiative – which began on Feb. 3 and will end on March 3 – is rooted in the Gospel's invitation for solidarity and honoring the dignity of the human person. It coincides with Black History Month and commemorates the feast days of Mother Mary Lange and St. Katharine Drexel, the patron saint of racial justice. The initiative invites parish communities to explore materials related to racial justice, including intercessory prayers, books, movies and discussion questions. Next year, the goal is to hold a Mass featuring the Rev. Josh Johnson, vocations director for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Mrs. Younkins explained that the goal is to build the initiative in subsequent years, inviting parishes to start the process this year by reflecting on where they are on their racial justice journey. They're asked to ensure they're serving their communities by worshipping in a way that is inclusive of the scope of the Catholic culture. Next year, the plan is to do more to engage schools and youth groups.

**Members responded**

Archbishop Lori commended the team for introducing the initiative and he is excited to see the initiative building, including through additional efforts in November for Black Catholic History Month. The goal, he said, is for racial justice world to be continually embedded throughout parish communities at all times, not just in moments of racial tensions.

Judge Wright commended the Offices of Black Catholic Ministries and Life, Justice and Peace for their work. He said racial justice work is not only about looking back but moving communities forward. He sees the potential for “In God’s Image” to do both. Ms. Miller suggested that the initiative work deliberately to engage faith formation leaders, and Mrs. Younkens said they are committed to doing so and will look for ways to expand reach. Archbishop Lori expressed enthusiasm for Father Johnson to speak to various groups during a visit to Baltimore, including pastors and associate pastors.

Archbishop Lori also used the time to brief the council on the archeological and preservation efforts at a graveyard where enslaved people are buried at Sacred Heart Chapel in Bowie. Although it is in the Archdiocese of Washington, the land was originally owned by the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Cardinal Gregory will offer a prayer service at the site.

Judge Wright suggested that the Archdiocese may consider making a permanent acknowledgement to the contribution of enslaved Marylanders to the parish communities. Archbishop Lori said such an exercise would be a worthwhile consideration.

## **II. Archdiocesan Medals of Honor**

Yvonne Wenger, director of the Office of Community Affairs, and Matt Anthony, senior director of engagement and giving in the Advancement Department, outlined the relaunch of the Archdiocesan Medals of Honor for the first time in more than 10 years. Ms. Wenger explained that the nomination committee received 72 submissions and will review the materials and make recommendations to the Archbishop. She encouraged the council to offer direction to be relayed to the committee to guide the selection process. Mr. Anthony said the Medals are built around categories tied to the five pillars of the Archdiocese’s mission statement and echoed in the themes of the Archbishop’s pastoral letter, “A Light Brightly Visible 2.0.” The goal, he said, is to raise up missionary disciples, honor them for their service and offer inspiration to others. There will be six awards in the following categories: evangelization (one for a pastor and one for laity), education, service, Catholic social ministry and stewardship. They will be conferred at the Archdiocesan Gala on Saturday, April 22. The “Shine the Light Gala” is reimagining the reception that has been held since 2009 shifting to a broader celebration from the original focus on Catholic education.

### **Members responded**

Mr. Simmons inquired about the date of the gala and possible conflicts on the calendar and Ms. McCubbin talked about the opportunity to do more to publicize the award criteria. Mr. Anthony noted that the gala would be held once every two years, so the Archdiocese can expand on lessons learned this year. Ms. Miller indicated that the awards criteria could be left somewhat open-ended to expand the possible nominees. Ms. Olivares inquired about youth recognition, and Mr. Anthony said a youth could be nominated for any award and the committee may want to look in future years at specifically honoring a young person. An additional award could specifically honor a non-Catholic partner.

## **III. Other**

Archbishop Lori noted that the “Seek the City to Come” initiative remains underway. The team has completed about 30% of their visits.

On another matter, the Archbishop noted the intent to celebrate the various languages and cultures of the Archdiocese at a celebration for Pentecost and said efforts are on ongoing for the National Eucharistic Revival engagement on the local level.

He reminded the members that the next meeting will be Wed., April 12, 6-8 p.m.

#### **IV. Closing prayer**

Archbishop Lori offered a closing prayer and the meeting concluded shortly after 11 a.m.