

**THE PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Diocese of San Diego**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**March 1, 2018**

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER & OPENING PRAYER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. and opened with the Diocesan Prayer.  
Happy Birthday to Peter Escalante.

**2.0 ROLL CALL**

Present: Bishop McElroy, Bishop Dolan, and Fathers: Brockhaus, Campbell, Cochran,  
Decasa, Ediza, Escalante, Jauregui, Lara, Murphy, O'Donnell, Pham, Ratajczak,  
Ravenkamp, Spahr, Zárate-Suárez

Excused: Mulcahy

Absent:

**3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda approved

**4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES of January 24, 2018 Meeting**

No corrections

**5.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence

**6.0 DEANERY REPORTS**

Request to send reports via email to Michael Pham or Aurelia to compile in  
minutes

**Cathedral Deanery:** No report

**Escondido Deanery:** No report

**El Cajon Deanery:** No report

**Mission Deanery:** No report

**Oceanside:** The meeting was held on Friday, February 9, 2018 at St. Margaret's in Oceanside. Presentations/Updates were given by Deacon Jim Vargas, President and CEO of Fr. Joe's Villages, and a Representative from the Missions Office relayed information about the Missionary Cooperation Plan, World Mission Sunday, and the Missionary Childhood Association. We reviewed the Confessor "sign-ups" for the Oceanside Deanery Lenten Penance Services. Also a suggestion was made that we should have a discussion on what is the strategy for multi-cultural ministry in our Diocese. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 9, 2018 at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Encinitas.

**South Bay:** No Report

**7.0 REPORTS**

## 7.1 Cultural Diversity

- There are about 17 different ethnic communities currently in our Diocese that we are serving. Cultural leaders have been meeting once every two months to discuss events and cultural celebrations.
- Topics during meetings: we would like to be more visible to the Diocese of San Diego. We wanted to implement a webpage of each ethnic community that within the Diocese website. We wanted to have the Cultural Diocesan Celebration during Pentacost weekend. The suggestion was to have an outdoor celebration at Good Shepherd Parish this year due the central location and large parking capacity. Each community can display their cultural diversity with entertainment, food booths, and performances. The date and time will be Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10am-2pm; from 10-11 will be the entertainment, and at 11am Bishop McElroy will celebrate the Mass. We would like all Priests to participate in this celebration. Also, we would like to invite Catholic Charities to attend as well; particularly since they have been closely working with various immigrants over the years and may have data or knowledge to share. This would connect with the “Share the Journey” as Pope Francis had called upon us coming together in sharing our gifts and culture. The theme will be “Gather As One”. A notification will be sent out as the logistics is being worked on.
- The Filipino Community is currently working on updating their by-laws. They will consult with the Filipino Priests for certain information and ideas.
- The Vietnamese Community is in election (this year) for a new Council and Chaplain for the next 3 year term.

## 7.2 Office for Priests/Clergy Concerns

- Bishop Dolan sent out letters to all Priests requesting feedback on issues relating about assignment, sabbatical, further education, and further Spanish immersion. Letters are in the process of being returned and collected. Happy to report that a majority of letters received to date indicate that priests are happy or satisfied with their present assignment. This will be a topic of discussion at the next personnel board meeting.
- Father Lauro Minimo gathered together Deanery representatives for the “100 Fold Program” to promote vocation committees within each parish. The representatives will model the 100 Fold. The meeting was held last week and seem to be moving in the right direction.
- Explore weekend for potential candidates this past week went well. We will see how many candidates are interested in entering the seminary next year.
- A meeting was held with Sister Maureen to discuss about new Pastors who need to read the new book before making changes to the community. There is an increasing problems for new pastors in the Diocese. They should get to know the community, emphasize on the culture and not doing anything major after a year being there.
- In the Diocesan website, there is a page for Office for Priests/Office for Clergy. Priests can go in and get access information pertaining to private matters. To get access, you need to click the lock icon. The user is “priests” (all lower case) and the password is “SBPriests”.
- Most hospital chaplains are international priests. They often may take extensive leave to go back to Africa or the Phillipines. There is a discussion that deacons can

be “on call” to these hospitals to be present with the family and to pray (not to anoint, but to be present).

### 7.3 Pastoral Planning – Diocesan Organization Chart

- Marioly Galvan is the new Chancellor for the Diocese.
- Director of Administration – Rod Valdivia (Vice Moderator of the Curia).
- Department of Catholic Schools – John Galvan
- Department of Clergy of Religious – Bishop John Dolan
- Department of Pastoral Ministry – Marioly Galvan
- Catholic Charities – Bob Moser
- Communications

### 7.4 RECOPS

- Question for council today is, does the RECOPS add value to the Diocese or should we look to withdraw from it? There is value of having perspective from Bishops and Priests, though perhaps 3 times a year is too frequent. Two times a year is about right. Recommendation is to have one focused topic with the opportunity for an open forum for discussion.
- Now, it is legal in California to have chemical cremation where the body dissolves with chemicals. The result ends up with approximately 300 gallon of dissolved waste (per person) while bone fragments left over.

### 7.5 AD HOC Committee for Retired Priests

- The committee (Bishop John Dolan, Ned Brockhaus, Lloyd Bourgeois, Mark Campbell, Diane Davis, George Decasa, Luke Jauregui, Jerry O’Donnell, Mike Pham and Tom Schoettle) met on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. Bishop McElroy visited and spent the whole meeting with us. Jerry O’Donnell presented priests’ cost of living figures in San Diego. George Decasa reported that of six Filipino priests he surveyed, two plan to retire here, two in the Phillipines and two are still undecided.
- Peter Escalante gave some ideas regarding housing alternatives for retired priests. Diane Davis asked for a clarification on reimbursement for hearing aids and Bishop McElroy said that the diocese would cover the total normal costs. Since there are priests who are spenders and those who are savers, the consensus was that we should focus on a more generous pension plan at retirement, rather than giving yearly IRA reimbursements while the priest is still in active ministry. It was estimated that the cost of living for a retired priest in independent living is approximately \$4300 a month.

### 7.6 AD HOC Committee for Sabatical Priests

- The committee had met. Peter McGuine will have a report soon.

## 8.0 BISHOPS ITEMS

### 8.1 Immigration

- Bishop McElroy thanks the pastors for promoting immigration in Church on Sunday. The Supreme court decided not to take on the issue. The Supreme court returned the issue to the lower court.

### 8.2 Bishop Flores’ Scholarship

- Most scholarship comes from ACA. We continue to call it as Bishop Flores’ Scholarship. The Diocese spends about \$2 mil on Catholic schools a year. A portion goes to the operation of the department of Catholic Schools. \$1.6 mil goes to student scholarship.

- The parishes have 3 pathways to help parishes with school. 1) Simply give a grant to a particular school. 2) Have a collection where people can donate to “blessing our future” campaign (like FIAT from South Bay). 3) Target your own kids within your own parish. Bishop McElroy will generate a letter to all the pastors.

### 8.3 Nepotism

- There is a major issue in hiring relatives as employees (directly or indirectly reporting). Many parishes reflect family relationships that are very entangled. Issues: 1) cannot effectively administer/oversee your close relative; 2) other employees will perceive favoritism and unfairness. This has been an ongoing issue, however, there has not been a rigorous enforcement on it. Now, there will be a one year resolution period where the family member will have ample time to find a new position elsewhere. This policy is aimed at employees, not so much volunteers. A letter should be sent out to codify this policy.

## 9.0 OLD BUSINESS

### 10.0 NEW BUSINESS

#### 10.1 Elect new member for Priest Pension Board

- Bill Kernan was reelected
- Members on the board are Michael Pham, Bill Kernan, Peter McGuine and Richard Duncanson

#### 10.2 Elect members to be on Corporations

- Catholic Cemeteries Corporation: (2 priests) Dennis Mikulanis and Mike Robinson; (1 deacon) Robert Griffin or Will Hollowell
- Seminary Corporation: (2 priests) Lauro Minimo and Mike Sinor
- CAPS: (3 pastors with deposits) Richard Duncanson, Mark Edney, Bruce Orsborn; (3 pastors with loans) Michael Pham, Michael Ratajczak, Peter Navarra
- The Roman Catholic Services Corporation: Steve Callahan, Peter McGuine, Anthony Saroki, Mark Campbell, Armando Escurel

### 11.0 ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting ended at 11:36am
- Next meeting May 15, 2018