

PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL

Diocese of San Diego Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

1.0 Call to Order and Opening Prayer: Bishop Bejarano offered opening prayer at 10:08 a.m.

2.0 Roll Call: Bishop McElroy, Bishop Dolan, Bishop Bejarano, and Fathers Bautista, Bosque, Brockhaus, Escalante, Herrera, Manahan, Minimo, Nuñez, Murphy, Pham, Ramirez, Ratajczak, Ravenkamp, Spahr, Zárate-Suárez; Excused: Masillamony, Navarra

3.0 Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved with addition of Gender Dysphoria

4.0 Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2021 meeting; Minutes approved

5.0 Bishop McElroy: Post-Covid Reset

5.1 Reviving and Renewing Parish Ministries: Diocesan Pastoral Council discussions have focused on strengthening our local church in the return to normalcy post-pandemic. Several topics related to the Eucharist: time to renew and deepen understanding and participation in the Eucharist; the Church community as the sacrament of Christ's presence in the world (communio); the Church as mission reaching out at all levels rather than turning in on itself (missio). Coming out of the pandemic, the local church must reclaim what was lost, utilize new forms learned from this experience, and implement a new strategy of pastoral orientations. However, these will not be a pre-packaged program nor a burden to implement.

5.2 Returning to in-person meetings for Parish Groups: As cases of COVID drop and vaccinations increase, pastors are receiving requests for in-person meetings (e.g. Legion of Mary, prayer groups, Knights of Columbus, Small Church communities, etc.). There is especially a desire to bring back children and youth for better and fuller engagement in faith formation. Bishop Mc Elroy asked that each member present, state his thoughts regarding the timeline for these in-person gatherings to resume. A few stated after Easter, a few more in July, but the majority preferred September (Fall). Bishop McElroy responded to this input by setting a general timeline in two stages: Faith Formation activities after Pentecost; other parish groups after September 1. All in-person gatherings will still need to follow protocols of masks, social distancing, proper sanitizing of the space, etc.

5.3 Restoring Ministry to Sick & Homebound: Keeping in mind health and safety concerns, it seems appropriate that fully vaccinated Ministers of Holy Communion could visit and take the Eucharist to fully vaccinated parishioners who are not able to attend Mass in person.

6.0 Catholic Charities on Asylum for Migrants: Vino Pajanor reported on Catholic Charities work with those crossing the border seeking political asylum in contrast to those coming without documents. Asylum seekers are presently housed in hotel rooms for 7-10 days after which 98% are sent from San Diego to family members across the US. Only 2% remain in San Diego because they have nowhere else to go. Catholic Charities gives shelter and support to that smaller group of asylum seekers. Catholic Charities is seeking assistance from parishes in the Diocese of San Diego for in-kind donations of food, clothing, and hygiene products. A two page hand-out was distributed with specific items that are needed.

7.0 Update on Convocation of Priests: Scheduled for September 20-23, 2021 at Lawrence Welk Resort with larger suites, enough rooms for all priests at one location, and slightly lower price compared to Temecula Creek. Fr. Jack Stoeger and Fr. Garrett Galvin OFM will be the presenters on the topic of "Priesthood from a Scriptural Perspective." Suggestions for topics and presenters for Convocation 2022 are welcome by Bishop Dolan.

8.0 COVID vaccine roll out: Following discussion with the Deans, Bishop McElroy will prepare a letter to make the case for vaccination to be read at Masses on Palm Sunday.

9.0 Open questions & comments: None

10.0 Adjournment at 12:09 p.m.

Next Meeting May 4, 2021