

PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL
Diocese of San Diego
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Tuesday, September 3, 2019
Diocesan Pastoral Center – Bishops’ Conference Room

1.0 CALL TO ORDER & OPENING PRAYER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and opened with the Diocesan Prayer.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: Bishop McElroy, Bishop Dolan and Fathers: Bautista, Bosque, Brockhaus, Escalante, Escurel, Herrera, Manahan, Masillamony, Nunez, Pham, Ravenkamp, Spahr, Zarate-Suarez

Excused: Ratajczak

Sabbatical: Horning

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES of May 16, 2019 Meeting

No corrections

5.0 DEANERY REPORTS

No reports

6.0 BISHOP MCELROY – ITEMS

6.1 Bishop appointed Fr. Michael Pham as Vicar General while remaining pastor at Good Shepherd Parish.

6.2 Independent Victims’ Compensation Program

- Will be launched on September 16, 2019.
- Key concept is those who are eligible for this fund are victims/survivors of sexual abuse as a minors by incardinated priests from the Diocese of San Diego.
- The Diocese of San Diego only is also responsible for San Bernardino Diocese’s priests prior to 1978.
- Benefit for Survivor - payment is quick (within 3 months) and not as strenuous to fill out paperwork.

6.3 All Employee Event at Jenny Craig

- Mandated Reporters – mixed review but good exposure to the society that the church takes great measure in protecting children.
- Electronic Communications Media Policy
 - Currently working on draft version of this policy focusing on employee restrictions on electronic communications media.
 - This policy is to convey the reality that there should not be private messaging between adult employee and minor.
 - This policy does not quite cover volunteers.
 - Action: Bishop McElroy requests to have second group to determine similar thrust policy for the volunteers. Fr. Peter Bosque and Fr. Matthew Spahr are part of the group in drafting this policy.

6.4 Corporations

- Process of establishing separate support corporations to hold parish real property is almost complete.
- Each corporation has five members: Dean or representative, Pastor, Finance Chairperson, Director of Construction and Director of Real Estate.
- Bishop does not have jurisdiction over civil aspects only ecclesiastical.

6.5 Seminary updates and FST – Fr. Matthew Spahr gave the report.

- The program follows the program of priestly formation: academic, human, pastoral and spiritual.
- Five theology students who are studying at Franciscan School of Theology (FST) just got under way at USD.
- Laura Spencer joined the staff at St. Francis Center. Laura has background in pastoral formation. For theology students, they have parish placement during the year that corresponds to their courses taken such as RCIA in the 1st year, CPE at the end of 2nd year, and pastoral year in their 3rd year of the program as they become deacons. Furthermore, they will have three international experiences: Rome, Holy Land and Puebla. For college students, they do ministries at the Immaculata and being exposed to Matthew 25:31-46 – the sick, the poor, the imprisoned and the migrants.

6.6 Bishop McElroy's discussion at Convocation – suggested topics

- Pope's letter to the priests
- Bishop's address

7.0 BISHOP DOLAN - ITEMS

7.1 Retirement Age

- Between 70-75
- A letter of resignation from administration at age 75

7.2 Sabbatical Program

- Parish pays for a supply priest while he is on sabbatical.

- Parish pays \$850 annually per priest for sabbatical program.
- The Diocese of San Diego will pay the religious community for religious priests who serve in the diocese for their sabbatical.
- Priest can take sabbatical every 7 years but priority will be given to priests who haven't taken one.

7.3 Diane Davis

- Reaches out to retired priests to update funeral form.
- Reaches out to help priest reaching 65 years of age to apply Medicare A and Medicare B.
- Gives her phone number to contact her (619) 922-9758.

7.4 Update on funeral arrangement

- Need to be updated every 5 years.

7.5 Permanent Deacons

- Survey shows that homiletic skill is needed the most. Relationship between pastor and deacon (wife) are important. Deacon needs to know clear process to serve in ministry.
- Need on-going formation.
- Need formation for the wives.
- Candidate for diaconate cannot be more than 55 years old.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Sex Education Curriculum

- Rights and Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians of Children in Public Schools Regarding Sexual Health Education.
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) has composed a concise guide to educate families on their rights and responsibilities pertaining to the "California Healthy Youth Act" mandated by the state for all public schools.

8.2 Policy on Parish Safety

- The Diocese of San Diego has come up with a general policy on parish safety (active shooter response).
- Catholic Mutual Group suggests reaching out to OVERWATCH Security Consultant for further advice. The initial consultation is free.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT – 12:11 P.M.

Next meeting Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.