

PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL
Diocese of San Diego
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.
Diocesan Pastoral Center – Bishops’ Conference Room

1.0 CALL TO ORDER & OPENING PRAYER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. and opened with the Diocesan Prayer

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: Bishop McElroy, Bishop Dolan and Fathers: Bautista, Brockhaus, Escalante, Herrera, Manahan, Masillamony, Murphy, Nunez, Pham, Ratajczak, Ravenkamp, Spahr, Zárate-Suárez

Excused: Bosque, Escurel

Sabbatical: Horning

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES of September 3, 2019 Meeting

No corrections

5.0 DEANERY REPORTS – meeting dates

5.1 Cathedral Deanery: November 12, 2019

5.2 Escondido Deanery: December 10, 2019

5.3 El Cajon Deanery: December 10, 2019 @ 4 p.m.

5.4 El Central Deanery: November 7, 2019

5.5 Mission Deanery: December 6, 2019 - Shirley Pajanor, Diocesan Finance Officer, gave an update regarding the Office for Finance and Accounting. Fr. John Kirby, SVD, gave an update regarding the Office for the Missions. Report was made from the last Presbyteral Council meeting. Fr. Matt confirmed hospital coverage for hospitals within the deanery. The schedule of Advent penance services was made available with mutual assistance offered to assure adequate coverage.

5.6 Oceanside Deanery: December 13, 2019 – Scott Maxwell, Director of Development for the Greater San Diego, for the Catholic Extensions Society spoke and provided information about the society. Edie & Sheila Murphy, the Directors of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter for Southern California passed on information about WWME, encouraging Pastors to have representatives come to their parishes to give an announcement about WWME weekends. Shirley Pajanor, the Chief Finance Officer of the Diocese also was present to re-introduce herself in her new role and she shared the various ways in which her office can help parishes. Sign-ups for the Advent Penance Services also took place.

5.7 South Deanery: November 12, 2019

6.0 BISHOP MCELROY - ITEMS

6.1 Amazon Synod

- The synod consisted 180 Bishops: 140 from the Amazon region, 12 from the Curia and 28 were appointed by Pope Francis. Cardinal O'Malley and Bishop McElroy were from the United States. There were also 50 lay people represented at the meeting which included 25 nuns.
- The Amazon covers 9 countries. Two-thirds of the area is in Brazil.
- Three topics were presented at the synod:
 - Pastoral challenge – shortage of priests is due to aging missionary groups as well as no vocations from the region. As a result, receiving the Eucharist regularly is very rare for which is about once a year. The Eucharist can't be kept for a long time because the climate causes the hosts to go bad. We are a sacramental church. Without the Eucharist, just preaching the word is difficult. Pentecostal church is better at preaching the word. Thus, people gravitate towards Protestant Churches. Women lead the parish in the liturgy of the word, witness marriages, do funerals, and baptisms. Therefore, they request for leaders to lead the community or parish and to be ratified soon, to ordain some married men among the deacons. They do not advocate to change celibacy in the priesthood but to send priests to missionary areas. They also suggest ordaining women deacon.
 - Socioeconomic challenge – Indigenous people hold land collectively. Mining poisons the land and water which destroy life. The forest is being destroyed to graze cattle. The situation is very detestable. Human rights are being tested.
 - Ecological challenge – The amazon is like a lung of the earth. The other lung of the earth is in Congo, Africa. The forest is destroyed which causes climate change in the environment. The critical point is at 40%.
- Pope Francis will issue a statement on these topics in the near future.

6.2 Independent Victims' Compensation Program

- There are 36 people have come forward to consider the program.

6.3 Diocesan Pastoral Council

- Mike Murphy, Michael Ratajczak and Scott Herrera are the Ad Hoc committee to come up with a way to form a diocesan pastoral council.

6.4 Federal Grant

- Because of the compliance issue, we need to put a hold on applying for federal grants.

7.0 BISHOP DOLAN - ITEMS

7.1 Priestly Life Committee – Assembly of priests

- February 24, 2020 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Topics: Formation of theologians and Lenten preparation

8.0 JOHN HURLEY – ITEMS

8.1 Young Adult Synod

- A video was presented
- There was a great energy and hope coming out of the synod.
- In the 1st phase, young adults gathered at seven deaneries. There were about 35-45 attending at each deanery. The total was about 270 attendees. In the 2nd phase, the gathering was held at the Pastoral Center on October 6 and 7. 133 young

adults attended the meeting, half number of men and half number of women. The average age was 26.

- The young adults are interested in the sacramental life of the Church. They wish to have the sacrament of reconciliation in the evening after work. They want to have spiritual direction.
- It is suggested that we need to have 20-25% young adults involved in ministries in the next 2-3 years.

9.0 MATTHEW SPAHR – ITEMS

9.1 Franciscan School of Theology (FST) update

- Academic – Theologians enjoy classes.
- Field Education and Pastoral Assignment – They are very positive and loving their assignment. They have a great sense of what is going on in the diocese. They would not have this kind of experience if they studied outside of the diocese. Celebration of candidacy is coming up. The families of theologians and college students in formation are invited to participate in the ceremony.
- Spiritual – Mike Sinor, Boom Martinez and Gil Gentil are involved in the spiritual formation. They have days of recollection and retreat for theologians.

10.0 PETER ESCALANTE – ITEMS

10.1 RECOPS

- They talked about safety protocol
- They talked about the Feinberg's process
- There was an on-going discussion about seal of confessions' bill

10.2 Discussion on Pastoral Communication

- Once a week coming from the diocese and through one office (sender)
- The text needs to be short and add attachment if needed.

11.0 MICHAEL PHAM – ITEMS

11.1 Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

- December 1st, 2019 – procession is at 12:30 p.m. and the Mass is at 2 p.m. at Golden Hall.

12.0 OLD BUSINESS

12.1 New Parish Safety Policy

- The policy needs to be reworked on the verbiage.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.