

PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL

Diocese of San Diego Minutes

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

- 1.0 CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER: Fr. Bautista offered opening prayer at 10:01 a.m.
- 2.0 ROLL CALL: Bishop McElroy, Bishop Dolan, Bishop Bejarano, and Fathers Bautista, Bosque, Brockhaus, Escalante, Escurel, Herrera, Horning, Manahan, Masillamony, Navarra, Nunez, Murphy, Pham, Ramirez, Ratajczak, Ravenkamp, Spahr, Zárate-Suárez; Excused: Minimo
- 3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda approved with addition of Diocesan Pastoral Council Update
- 4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES of November 3, 2020 meeting: Minutes approved
- 5.0 BISHOP MC ELROY
 - 5.1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair: The only nominees, Fr. Bautista and Fr. Minimo, were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair.
 - 5.2 Lent/Holy Week Guidelines: Lengthy discussion as to the manner and timing of distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday during pandemic. While awaiting further direction from Vatican and USCCB, there was consensus that ashes should be distributed with certain elements left to the discretion of the pastor (e.g. middle or end of Mass; within Mass or at Liturgy of the Word, etc.) Self-administration of ashes is not permitted. Once again, Penance Services will be prohibited, but permission for General Absolution at Sunday Masses during Lent will be granted. The Bishop will discuss with the deans further guidelines for Holy Week, including Easter Vigil.
 - 5.3 Promoting Healing of Division: Discussion of how priests can address the need to promote unity in a climate of deep political partisanship and even violence. Looking for ways to speak effectively during this difficult time of division. In addressing the need for healing of hearts, suggestions were made: taking it to prayer (Prayer of the Faithful, Votive Masses, diocesan prayer composed by Bishop, letter to priests for inclusion in parish bulletins).

- 5.4 Priests self-care during COVID: Bishop McElroy expressed his deep concern for the health and well-being of all the priests, especially those over 75. He commended our senior priests for their prudent decision to isolate themselves from many activities. 40% of COVID deaths have been in skilled nursing settings. Bishop Dolan will meet with hospital chaplains to review their situation. As essential workers on the front lines, they will receive vaccine early in the process.
- 5.5 Diocesan Pastoral Council: First meeting of new Diocesan Pastoral Council took place and will continue to meet on a monthly basis with the bishop. Made up of 2 representatives from each deanery, 2 pastors, 2 deacons, and 1 woman religious. Several members are doctors, nurses, social workers, which will be very helpful in addressing the topic of how parishes and schools can educate local Catholics on the moral imperative to promote the COVID vaccine for the common good. The Diocesan Pastoral Council will also consider creative ways of outreach to enhance participation in the Church post-COVID.
- 5.6 Moving Forward after COVID: Some people have become comfortable staying at home. We have to lead our people away from fear in dealing with some objections to the vaccine. Some people are struggling with "wait and see" or "do it now". Recommendation to produce a succinct and easy to understand statement regarding the vaccine. Perhaps even a video clip by a medical professional for the diocesan website.

6.0 FINANCE (Shirley Pajanor)

- 6.1 Payroll Protection Program: The amount of the first Payroll Protection Program to be automatically forgiven was raised from \$50,000 to \$150,000. The second PPP has different criteria than the first. Second loan is not based on number of employees. To be eligible a parish must have experienced at least 25% reduction in income in any one of three quarters of 2020. The data from parishes is ready to submit to the Small Business Administration as soon as the portal opens. Shirley reported that 78 parishes are eligible; 72 pastors have chosen to apply for the second loan. She expects a quick turnaround from Notre Dame Credit Union. Categories of expenses to which the loan may be applied were presented. Bishop and council members expressed great appreciation to Shirley and her staff for their hard work in guiding us through this process.

Adjournment at 11:48 a.m.

Next meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021