



## San Diego Synod Commission Meeting Minutes January 10, 2022 6:00 pm



**Present:** Bishop Robert McElroy, Auxiliary Bishop John Dolan, Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano, Katrina “Kat” Albrandt, Sylvia Benning, Athena Besa, Chris Bongato, Aida Bustos, Theresa “Terry” Clark, Kevin Eckery, Robert “Bobby” Ehnou, Maria Olivia “Marioly” Galván, Rev. John Hurley, CSP, Rev. Devdas Masillamony, Rev. Michael Murphy, Sr. Juliet Mousseu, RSCJ, Deacon Tim Shulz

**Zoom:** Victor Carmona, Yamin Chenin, Bob Donmoyer, Leonardo Fonseca, Maria Galace, Fred Galloway, Alan Mobley, Vino Pajanor, Vi Salazar.

**Excused:** Rev. Rey Evangelista

Following dinner at 6:00 pm, the meeting began at 6:30 pm with opening prayer led by Bishop Robert McElroy

**Confirm Synodal Theme-** The Communications team gathered the feedback from both San Diego and Imperial Valley commissions and proposed: “The Church Needs Us: Let Us Journey Together Towards Renewal!” The theme was accepted by the commission.

**Parish Engagement-** Given the resurgence of covid-19 cases due to the Omicron variant, it was deemed prudent to delay the parish synodal engagement to March. It was further explained that this delay would not impact the timeline originally proposed in gathering the necessary data for the diocesan report to be completed and submitted to the USCCB.

A discussion surrounding the possibility of holding the group sessions on zoom was brought up. Noting that a hybrid model might be considered for those who are unwilling or unable to participate in-person. Bishop McElroy shared his concern for providing too many options that may complicate the process. He further explained that online sessions should be reserved until after the in-person sessions have been completed. Unless the Omicron variant makes the face to face sessions impossible. Commission members were reminded that although there was a timeline for the submission of the report, the diocese was not bound by a set deadline for the local implementation (listening and gathering input for our local process). Additionally, the survey instrument that will be developed is another avenue for gathering input from those individuals who were not able to participate in the parish in-person sessions.

It was stressed that the parish registration process was crucial in determining the number of sessions that would need to be scheduled and securing sufficient facilitators and note-takers to assist with the parish small group sessions.

**Facilitator Guides-** The proposed facilitator guide was reviewed. The 11 page document summarizes the different phases, enlists the talking points, questions and templates for jotting notes as well as the draft of the summary report that will be submitted by each group facilitator/note-taker. Commission members were provided an opportunity to share feedback and comments. Some clarification to the role of note-taker was provided:

- Note-taker would need to go last so they can listen and record all notes.
- Their participatory role within the small group is different.

- It was recommended that the note-takers also participate within the circle rather than scheduling a separate session for them.

The parish synod coordinators will be scheduling a training sessional the parish to train the facilitators and note-takers. A specific set of guidelines will be provided in order to provide consistency in gathering the data from each parish site.

Further, it was recommended that there would be no formal breaks during the small group sharing to not disrupt the flow. Should individuals need to use the restroom, they could feel free to do so anytime.

Finally, the translation of the facilitator guides will be made available in Spanish and Vietnamese.

**Action Items:**

- 1) The synod introductory video will be presented to members.
- 2) Review the facilitator guide with revisions

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm with a closing prayer led by Bishop Dolan.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, February 7th at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted: Maria Olivia “Marioly” Galván