



San Diego Synod Commission Meeting Minutes February 7, 2022 6:00 pm



Present: Bishop Robert McElroy, Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano, Katrina “Kat” Albrandt, Sylvia Benning, Athena Besa, Chris Bongato, Aida Bustos, Victor Carmona, Theresa “Terry” Clark, Bob Donmoyer, Kevin Eckery, Rev. Rey Evangelista, Robert “Bobby” Ehnou, Leonardo Fonseca, Maria Galace, Fred Galloway, Maria Olivia “Marioly” Galván, Rev. John Hurley, CSP, Rev. Devdas Masillamony, Alan Mobley, Vi Salazar, Deacon Tim Shulz

Excused: Auxiliary Bishop John Dolan, Rev. Michael Murphy, Sr. Juliet Mousseu, RSCJ, Vino Pajanor.

Meeting took place on Zoom and began at 6:00 pm with opening prayer led by Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano.

Updated Timeline- Bobby Ehnou provided commission members an update on the proposed timeline given the one-month delay in engaging parishes due to the Omicron variant. Parishes will commence their small group sessions in March with all parish reports due by April 4th. This will allow sufficient time for the gathering of information, discernment with the commission members and for the qualitative data to inform the quantitative survey that will be prepared for the summer.

Engagement of Groups- The question surrounding the gathering of demographic data from participants in the initial registration process was discussed. Members surfaced the probability of incorporating questions within the registration link that would provide some information on the group of participants. There was concern that these types of questions might discourage participants and detract from the goal which is to invite them to listen to one another. Additionally, it was noted that should this information be gathered, it would not be possible to associate the demographic data to the results. In summary, if parishes wish to add basic information such as age groups within the registration process, it could assist particularly in placing young adults and younger into age appropriate small-groups. The key priority is to gather as many people as possible to participate in the initial listening phase.

In addition to the parish sessions, the engagement of Catholic Newman Centers and university students would also be done in this initial phase. Bishop McElroy clarified that affinity groups which serve as points of insertion into the life of church, would likely not be engaged at this stage given the level of advancement with the parishes. Rather, they would be engaged in a more sustained conversation during the implementation phase. This would entail meeting with group leaders more than once and discerning how their respective groups embody the synodal themes. The deeper questions for reflection would entail discerning the information that has been received and how that can be applied within their affinity groups. Parishes are the primary structures and is where the majority of the engagement take place, including young adults, catholic school families, etc.

The engagement of students will be discussed in greater length with the diocesan offices for Schools, Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry and Youth to determine a process that would be applicable to students in both parish faith formation programs and Catholic schools.

Communications Update- The communications committee finished the welcome video message and played it for the commission members. Demonstrated the newest resources added to the communication resources page and shared the social media campaign in both English and Spanish.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm with a closing prayer led by Bishop Robert McElroy

Next Meeting: Monday, March 7th at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted: Maria Olivia “Marioly” Galván