**ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 24, 2022**

*Present: Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, Bishop Mark Rivituso, Monsignor Dennis Stehly, Father Mike Boehm, Father Chris Martin, Nancy Werner, Mike School, Linda Putnam, Jennifer Stanard, John Schwob, Brian Miller, Kim Reid, Father Paul Niemann, Sr. Suzanne Giblin, Tom Purcell, Pat Drury, Monsignor Mike Turek, John Blase, Father Charles Barthel, Kitty Brighton, Steve Ringkamp, Father Tom Molini, Tom LaMantia, Father Dan Shaughnessy, Debbie Geringer, Father Brian Fischer, Jerry Keeven, Jim Welby, Father Joe Post, Bob Dobsch, Sr. Marysia Weber, Father Pat McDevitt, Sr. Susan Marie Krupp, Deacon David Schaefer, Deacon Thomas Gottlieb, Alayna Mickles, Katie Bock*

**Evening Prayer by Monsignor Stehly**

**Welcome and Introductions by Archbishop Rozanski**

* Welcome new members: Jim Welby, St. Charles Deanery representative; Katie Bock, young adult representative
* Want to reiterate critical role of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council in *All Things New* initiative:

-You represent our archdiocese – the Church of St. Louis. Important to give your insights and your counsel.

-*All Things New* will evaluate the effectiveness of our local church in proclaiming the Gospel and will identify opportunities for improvement and renewal within all parishes, schools and ministries.

* Thank you for completing the survey after the December 13 meeting:

-Most agree that we need to be more specific with the definition of evangelization. What does it mean to evangelize? You emphasized the need for concrete examples.

-Need a strategy to retain our parishioners – most fear that many will leave the Church. In our community, we are concerned about our individual parishes and schools, but some do not want to look at the “big picture” – don’t see the connectedness.

-Highlighted the need to know how *All Things New* connects with Synod.

-People should hear about *All Things New* weekly or bi-weekly – Sunday bulletins or pulpit.

-Most of you are willing to participate in virtual meetings over the next year to receive updates on the initiative.

* Minutes from December 13 – there are no changes to the minutes. Accepted as written.

**Poll by Mike School**

Overall reaction to *All Things New* you’ve heard from others: over half polled think people are hopeful.

**Synod Update by Nancy Werner**

* Preparing this archdiocese for the Synod. Report submitted this June.
* Soon after Ash Wednesday, information will be on website.
* In October, the Synod was opened in Rome. Archbishop Rozanski opened in St. Louis with Mass at Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis.
* We are in first phase of it. All about listening and prayer.
* Putting together a plan to reach out and ask three questions: landing page after DMI, two listening sessions on March 12 at Aquinas Institute (invitation only), connect with St. Vincent de Paul to reach their clients, Women’s conference on March 12. Will provide report with DMI and summary of answers to three questions.
* Questions:

1. Based on your personal experience, what about the Catholic Church fills your heart?

2. Based on your personal experience, what about the Catholic Church breaks your heart?

3. How can the Church better listen to people who are marginalized or socially excluded, including cultural-ethnic groups, women, those living with disabilities, those experiencing poverty and those identifying as LGBTQ+?

* Report will go to USCCB in June
* Comments:

-Fr. Niemann indicated that there is concern that women religious can be included in Synod.

-Some parishes may do their own listening sessions.

-Washington University wants to be integrated into report.

-Include representation of young people. Young people and older adults leave the church for different reasons.

**All Things New Evangelization Plan by Father Chris Martin, Brian Miller**

* We are on schedule with *All Things New*.
* 17 groups working in the background in different areas.
* Invite people into an encounter with Jesus Christ.
* Defining evangelization again and again. Everyone is talking about evangelization and missionary discipleship. See the good work and renewal in our archdiocese.
* Evangelizing is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with everyone we meet. Jesus Christ makes life better, not necessarily easier.
* Looking to create an army of evangelizers in our archdiocese. Give them a common vision and language. Send them on mission to the unengaged people in our parishes. Help parishes build a path of discipleship.
* 3 pillars: New hearts. New minds. New methods.

**Small Group Discussion:**

* Group 1: Liked the booklet. How to use the book is a concern (retreats?) Knowing what to do with the books. Videos good but more personal testimonies. Diverse ideas.
* Group 2: Focused on guidebook. Thought audience for book is people that are already engaged. Utilize existing parish groups for guidebook.
* Group 3: Materials are well-done. Pedagogy of various levels of people we will be working with. Different audiences. Some extensive on training trainers to use the materials. Videos good but too many talking heads.
* Group 4: Whole experience should be about building relationships. Not so much about a strategy.
* Group 5: Nonjudgmental stance of encountering people. Coming together as community first. Barnabas as role he had in witnessing Paul. As we added Masses, the time between Masses got shorter. Lost time for parish community.
* Group 6: Doing evangelization work but difficult parish-wide. Materials will evolve. Videos good but need some role-playing with them. How should you speak to people about sharing your faith? The workbook was good but need to organize groups to use the workbook. Condense the workbook. What happens when we close parishes and people don’t come back to the church? Statistics are the real problem – need to fix this situation. While evangelization is important, the larger issue is retention. Evangelization and retention can’t be blended together. People are leaving the church because of church teachings and not dissatisfaction with parishes.
* Group 7: How do we get people engaged enough to have a discussion group? Activities to engage people. Priests greeting parishioners. Improve relationships. RENEW small faith groups were effective. Interesting tool for reaching out to people.
* Group 8: Document is a lot. Worth diving into with a group.
* Group 10: Need to be where people are. Going to places where people are. Not waiting for people to come to us. Meeting in homes with more relaxed environment. Not the traditional methods. Tremendous opportunity to reach out to people. Have raised curiosity and need to follow up with people.

**New Opportunities for Council Members**

* Connect with your deanery meeting.
* Share information from APC meeting.
* Gather feedback about *All Things New* from deanery meeting.
* To connect with your deanery:

-Share your participation in the APC.

-Learn thoughts and attitudes about *All Things New*, good stories and challenges.

-Encourage participation in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI)

**Closing Prayer by Archbishop Rozanski**

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

**Location: Cardinal Rigali Center**

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Friday, August 19, 2022

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Monday, December 12, 2022 – Mass, Dinner and Meeting