

ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 1, 2020

Present: Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop Mark Rivotuso, Monsignor Dennis Stehly, V.G., Rev. Michael Boehm, V.G., presiding, Very Rev. Paul Niemann, Very Rev. Msgr. Mark Ullrich, Very Rev. Michael Esswein, Very Rev. Charles Barthel, Very Rev. Thomas Molini, Very Rev. Daniel Shaughnessy, Very Rev. Brian Fischer, Very Rev. William Thess, Very Rev. Joseph Post, Kim Reid, Melanie Wilson, Sister Suzanne Giblin, CSJ, Patricia Drury, Mark Goldstein, Joe Winer, Kitty Brighton, Steve Ringkamp, Thomas LaMantia, Debbie Geringer, Sister Marysia Weber, RSM, Sister Susan Marie Krupp, ASCJ, Deacon Larry Boldt, Deacon Thomas Gottlieb, Nancy J. Werner, John Schwob, Sandra Price, Lisa Randazzo

- Bishop Rivotuso opened the meeting with Evening Prayer
- Archbishop Rozanski welcomed the new members and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He talked about how the group has been expanded based upon the recommendation of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council to have two lay deanery representatives for each deanery.

Sandra Price – Office of Child and Youth Protection

- The purpose of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council is to support of the pastoral works of the mission of this local church.
- Members appointed to the council must be members of the Christian faithful in full communion with the Catholic Church. Members include appointed lay members representing each deanery, at-large members of the permanent diaconate, women religious, men religious, the ten deans of the archdiocese and ex-officio members of the diocesan staff, including the auxiliary bishop, vicars general, the chancellor and the director of pastoral planning.
- The terms for the Deans and the ex-officio staff members are for the length of their service. Everyone else is appointed for a three year term which may be considered for renewal of one additional term. When a new dean is appointed he will also be appointed to the council by the Archbishop. As lay deanery representatives complete their terms the chancellor will alert the dean to request that a new member is appointed. The Office of Consecrated Life recommends religious men and women, the permanent diaconate recommends deacons appointments. Once the Archbishop approves those that have been recommended a letter is sent from his office to the new member.
- The Mission of our group is to offer counsel and insight to the Archbishop. We are an advisory body that can help facilitate and communicate a shared vision that will hopefully evolve through ongoing dialogue at our meetings. The goal is for our curia offices as well as the local parishes across the deaneries is to work in unity to implement this shared vision.
- What you are being asked to do is serve as a forum for discussion, particularly for issues of pastoral significance. You are being asked to be the link between the archbishop and the clergy, as well as your parishes and deaneries to help with communication and education. We need a strong and unified group to support the Archbishop and his pastoral work and messages. We need assistance and will ask for you to assess, identify and make ongoing recommendations regarding difficult issues, like child protection, immigration,

and racial equity to name a few. You may be asked to serve as a focus group or to provide feedback at times for crisis communications or issues related to campaigns that move the archdiocese forward in a thoughtful way.

Nancy Werner – Chancellor

- A landing page is now available on the archdiocesan website for the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council that will include all the meeting materials and meeting minutes will now be taken and published on that landing page.
- A story will also be featured in the *St. Louis Review* in the future about the APC along with a group photo.
- The APC members are essential, especially when the Church finds itself in a crisis, we look to the lay leaders, religious and clergy to see us through, and that is why the decision was made to add another lay leader to each deanery.

Tom Buckley – General Counsel

- Reminded the council that with any consultative body that the matters discussed should remain confidential. We can do our best work when the conversations are frank, but it's important that the conversations remain within the council if the matters are confidential.
- The names of the APC members will be public on the website. If media contacts the members, Tom reminded them that none of us are authorized to be a spokesperson for the Archdiocese so to please refer them to Peter Frangie in the Office of Communications.

Dispensation of Sunday Obligation due to Covid – Archbishop Rozanski

- Archbishop met with the Presbyteral Council and Deans regarding the dispensation of Mass on Sundays due to Covid. They all agreed that it is not the right time to lift the restrictions and, if we did, it would send the wrong message.
- The APC members agreed and thought we should look into ways to remind the pastors that churches need to be safe with social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer and adhering to the county capacity guidelines.

Questions to Council Members – Archbishop Rozanski

- Archbishop asked the Council two questions:
 - What I would like you to know about the church of St. Louis is...
 - If I were Archbishop I would...

Feedback from Council:

- St. Louis has a rich tradition. 20% of the population is Catholic. The Catholic presence is visible in our high schools, hospitals, Catholic Charities, etc.
- Racism is still very present in the Church here in St. Louis in the city and the county. We need to keep working toward justice.
- St. Louis area is very giving philanthropically. Education is the key to a lot of the equality issues. We need to have more of an emphasis on education especially in our inner cities for these kids to have a chance. The church is their chance and we need to do more.

- Our strength is in our parishes. The parish communities are vibrant and the people are devoted. The weakness is that our parishes get focused on one area and lose focus of the bigger picture. The voice and message of the archbishop needs to be seen and heard regularly.
- The church is aging. We need to figure out how to reach younger people, especially people of color. People of color are often left out of the conversations when decisions are made. We need to usher in new energy.
- We are so blessed to have the seminary here in St. Louis and to watch these wonderful young men being developed into wonderful priests.
- We need to use the media to communicate with our youth. We need to adapt to how they communicate.
- The expansion of the group to include more lay people is good. We should have diversity amongst this group as well and have various races represented. There is great potential in this archdiocese.
- We need leaders that live mercy rather than living by the letter of the law.
- We need to do a much better job at evangelizing. We have wonderful women's and men's conferences here in St. Louis...probably the best in the nation. Archbishop Carlson started the Lay Formation program when he was here and it is a wonderful program, but it is full of older people. Lots of people are feeling great about Archbishop Rozanski.
- We need to deal with the reality of aging priests and buildings and how to use the physical and human resources of the church.

Final Comments – Archbishop Rozanski

- Archbishop Rozanski talked about the recent controversy with the Peace and Justice Commission and the webinar that aired. There is a lot of misinformation out there. The Peace and Justice Commission has not been suspended. We are simply taking some time to look at our policies and procedures to figure out where the breakdown occurred and what we can do to improve communication and policies so this type of situation does not happen again.

Closing Prayer

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Location: Cardinal Rigali Center

Thursday, March 4, 2021

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (Rescheduled from May 18, 2021)

Tuesday, September 28, 2021