**ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 11, 2021**

*Present: Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop Mark Rivituso, presiding, Very Rev. Paul Niemann, Very Rev. Msgr. Mark Ullrich, Very Rev. Scott Jones, Very Rev. Michael Esswein, Very Rev. Charles Barthel, Very Rev. Brian Fischer, Very Rev. William Thess, Very Rev. Joseph Post, Darren Holtmeyer, Sister Suzanne Giblin, CSJ, Debbie Geringer, Mark Goldstein, John Blase, Patricia Drury, Kitty Brighton, Steve Ringkamp, Tom Purcell, John Gabler, Kim Reid, Sister Marysia Weber, RSM, Sister Susan Marie Krupp, ASCJ, Deacon Larry Boldt, Deacon Thomas Gottlieb, Nancy J. Werner, John Schwob, Sandra Price, Lisa Randazzo, Peter Frangie,*

* Bishop Rivituso opened the meeting with Evening Prayer
* Archbishop Rozanski welcomed the members. He informed the members that we were going to continue the conversation we had at the last meeting of where we are now and where we want to be. Archbishop introduced Mr. John Schwob, Director of Pastoral Planning, to present on the demographic trends in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. (See PowerPoint presentation)

Breakout Session Questions:

1. **What was the biggest positive “take away” from the various “numbers” in the presentation?**

* Generosity of the faithful and life-long givers
* School enrollment
* Seminary enrollment
* Ordinations are steady
* Vitality/reorganization/fluidity change
* Catholic identity – index higher than the reality
* Catholic enrollment – higher than the Catholic national average
* Catholic presence greater than actual number of Catholics
* Website visits are up
* Adoption of technology (livestreamed mass, online donations, reaching millennials)
* There is a desire to be part of the faith
* Engagement during COVID

1. **What was the biggest concern about the various “numbers” in the presentation?**

* Generosity is not sustainable
* Need for family formation
* Understanding the reason for the numbers
* Engaging young adults/families/maintain a connection to the church post high school
* Organizational reputation impacts participation
* Aging priest population
* 2/3 of Catholic education ends in 8th grade – how do you keep them engaged as they go through adulthood
* Statistics show we can’t continue at the rate we are losing Catholics
* Enslaved by too many buildings
* We need to evangelize our own Catholics
* Active priests are decreasing
* Ratio of priests to people
* Marriage and baptism numbers are down
* Catholic education numbers are down
* Faith formation as opposed to Catholic education
* 22% of Catholics do so much

1. **If we are going to address the church/school rightsizing in the next two years, what suggestions do you have on how to best approach this issue?**

* Sustain good ministries
* Right clustering of parishes
* A strong communications plan is needed and needs to be communicated to the faithful
* North City and South City – do we need to reallocate resources?
* Share the facts!! For example – listening sessions and discuss the particular status of the parish
* We need to take action
* Community vs. building in closings
* Communicate now about evolving long-term strategies
* What do communities need?
* The mission of fostering a larger vision of church evangelization

**Final Comments and Closing Prayer – Archbishop Rozanski**

* Archbishop thanked John for his presentation and thanked the APC members as we continue the process to forge into the future.

**Upcoming Meeting Date:**

**Location: Cardinal Rigali Center, Fleur de Lis Room**

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.