

Minutes of the Pastoral Council of the Archdiocese of Louisville
Flaget Center
March 25, 2006

Present: Archbishop Kelly, Brian Reynolds, Sharan Benton, and 78 Pastoral Council Chairpersons and 14 members of the Priests' Council.

Sharan Benton opened the meeting. Approximately 78 parishes were represented. Archbishop Kelly lead the group in prayer. The group shared questions regarding the readings. Archbishop Kelly invited everyone to give the sign of peace.

Archbishop's Report

Archbishop Kelly thanked the Parish Council Chairs and Priests' Council for coming. He addressed the following topics:

Standing during communion procession – There has been a resistance to change but the Roman Missal supports this new directive.

Death Penalty – Our opposition was strong. There is still some reluctance to follow but there is 100% opposition among Bishops.

Lay Ministry – We have had marvelous growth in this diocese. This is not the case elsewhere. We are doing great and marvelous things in this diocese.

Immigration – The four Bishops of Kentucky have written to the United States Senators McConnell and Bunning and their staffs regarding their grave concern for those that will be affected by immigration laws now being debated in Congress and asked them to support reform that is just.

Encuentro – Carole Goodwin is Director of Youth Ministry and she is working with parish groups to gather information on what youth and young adult Hispanics encounter in relation to empowerment from the church and challenges that they face. The diocese is gathering information to share with a regional Encuentro in Atlanta and the national Encuentro will be held at Notre Dame University.

Retirement – In July Archbishop Kelly will send in a letter of resignation. It will be up to 18 mos. before a successor is named. Archbishop Kelly met the Papal Nuncio in Nashville. Archbishop Kelly went to Nashville for the ordination of the Bishop of Nashville. This was his fifth and last Bishop to ordain.

Two topics of ongoing matters:

1. Stewardship and how to continue to make it grow.
2. How to engage our people in the local church.

The first weekend in Lent, 536 went through the Rite of Election. Our church is alive and well. At the top of the list are the Priests' Council and PCAL.

Archbishop Kelly answered questions from PCAL members regarding Catholic Charities, Immigration and visits to seminaries.

Brian Reynolds began the Planning Process with Council Chairs and the Priests' Council

There were four questions for small group discussion. The first question "How are issues of fewer priests, clustered parishes and other changes in parish life impacting priests of the Archdiocese of Louisville?" was addressed to the members of the Priests' Council. Some responses were:

1. What's happening to our priest?
2. Work smarter not harder.
3. Greater stress – Greater need for fraternity, exercise/diet
4. More travel – work by phone
5. Demanding "new" thinking – challenging to rethink image of priests and parish
6. Reliance on staff/lay ministers – some exciting, energizing, supervision can be time demanding when time at premium
7. All parishes are different – St. Cecilia/Our Lady/St. William – hard to get roots – hard to know people. Foster father of 3 different families
8. Get deacons more and more involved.

The second question "What do parishioners look for from their priests? Responses were:

1. Spiritual guidance. As the shepherd of the flock
2. Minister to the sick/hospitals
3. Building and forming community
4. Social teaching/social justice
5. Everything that we expected 30 or 40 years ago
6. Celebrate the Eucharist/Preach and teach us.

The PCAL members answered the third question "How best can parish councils and pastors work together?". Some responses were:

1. Take more upon themselves as a parish council – don't remove power but take some of the burden off the priest.
2. Establish boundaries for parish council so the people know more about what they can and can't do. Priests may need to establish boundaries for themselves.
3. Partner with each other. Parish council needs to address issues with parishioners on behalf of pastor.
4. Get together at the regional level and do some serious discussions.
5. Always maintain an open dialogue.
6. For pastors to give assignments to the parish council.

7. To have members from other parish councils attend meetings – Combine parish council members from neighboring parishes.
8. Pastoral Administrators at every parish. If this is done, it ups the tier another level. Some could not function in that capacity.
9. Council do visioning – should be the focus.
10. Priest and community open to and recognize empowerment to parish council; take ownership – includes sub-committees; delegated tasks with understanding priests ultimate yeah/nay.
11. Priest and council set vision and council cheerleads the vision to community.

Some responses to the fourth question “What are your hopes and concerns about the present parish and regional planning process?” were:

1. Remember we are all Catholics, not a building
2. Bring us together, not separate
3. That people will let go, so they can grow
4. That the planning commission will be open and listen to what we say and think
5. Population in parish doesn’t know what’s going on
6. Two hopes:
 - a. Evolution not revolution
 - b. Hope lay people step up
7. Get parish councils in region together early and often.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Two years ago, we started a demographic study
2. Last year we did a staffing study
3. Last August, Priest Council and PCAL supported the development of a multi-year plan
4. Data input process – 100% participation in the study
5. Next step – Parishes will make recommendations regarding changes to structures and staffing

Vocations – A marketing firm is helping develop a vocation campaign entitled “Answering the Call”.

Diaconate Program – One of our strengths. There are two classes in formation. Thirteen will be ordained in August. There are 17 applicants for a new class.

KSAA – There is a movement within KSAA to try to separate public and private schools in athletics. No Catholic schools give assistance for athletics. Under the proposal, wherever a student lives in grades 6-8, cannot play sports for 2 years in public or Catholic schools. We are working to prevent this proposal from passing.

April 2008 Bicentennial – A time for renewal and celebration, as we plan in the following ways:

1. historical venture
2. formation venture
3. celebration venture

Retirement Plan – The Catholic Archdiocese Employees Retirement Plan is changing from a defined contribution plan to a 401(k) plan effective July 1, 2006. Fifth Third bank will provide retirement plan services.

CSA – There are 3 sources of income:

1. Parish assessments
2. CSA
3. Investments

Our goal this year was \$3.2 million of which \$2.7 million has been raised. Contributions of \$800,000 for Hurricane Katrina had an impact on CSA contributions.

Sharan Benton ended the meeting with a prayer at 2:55 p.m.

The next PCAL meeting will be October 28, 2006.