

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council



7 September 2006

How do we as an Archdiocese re-unify? "COMMUNICATION BUILDS TRUST"

On 26 January 2006 the APC met at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Bishop Peterson Hall, Brighton for Evening Prayer and Grace. A light dinner was available in Bishop Peterson Hall Meeting Room for all in attendance and the meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks from Cardinal Sean: (approximately 6:30 PM)

- Welcome back to all APC members after the summer break.
- There is an Ordination for Deacons this Saturday, with 15 men being ordained.
- Fr. Rich Erikson, Vicar General, is absent due to military commitment
- I had a Committee meeting this afternoon with Archdiocese Pastoral Planning Committee. They've done much work this summer and have good ideas. All their feedback is forthcoming to the APC.
- Two search committees looking for Head of Education Department, New CEO for Caritas Christi.
- A recommendation has been made by the Mitner Group on Education. I am now looking at the report.
- A summer meeting with Renew International was held. Several pastors and I attended. We are trying to see if they can tailor the needs of the Archdiocese to the program. We especially need a strong outreach to inactive Catholics. Renew team is working on it.
- A Family Conference in Valencia was held. It was a great experience for me.
- The goal of today is to have APC hear from the new Cabinet.

Committee Reports:

- Parish Life and Leadership Committee didn't meet over the summer and had nothing new to report.
- Catholic Evangelization Committee is moving forward with the summary of parish surveys, and Ann Fennel resigned as Chair.
- Communications Committee met in May with the Pilot editor Antonio Enrique, Terrance C. Donilon and Kevin Shea. They discussed all things related to good communications for the laity, using the Pilot. The committee is meeting again soon and will have representative from BCTV present.

Conclusions of Operations and Financial Review Group.

- Report given to Cardinal Sean in December, 2005.
- Group met with Cardinal Sean about seven times.
- Most of the recommendations by the group were accepted by Cardinal Sean.
- A new implementation committee to be formed.

- An overhaul of the Archdiocesan group was done.
- Some offices were eliminated, some combined.
- Create a migrant mission team to support:
 - Merging some offices, which is in progress
 - Central services should be managed to follow constituents better
 - Strengthening of authority of Vicar Forane, Bishops
- Secretariat for Regional Services created, led by Sr. Marian Batho.
- All these changes led to 4.5 million budget savings.
- This means a balanced budget, minus the debt service for FY 2007
- For FY 2008, we'll have a balanced budget completely.
- Fifty positions eliminated from Central Fund.
- Only twenty five people laid off. This was a painful process for all.
- In addition to this large group, there have been many other committees looking at changes.

New Cabinet Secretary Reports:

Catholic Education Services – Sister Clare Bertero, OSF, Interim Secretary

Sr. Clare served in Religious Education office for many years. She was then Director of Religious Education office for 6 years. This Secretary position is an interim position for her.

- Campus Ministry
 - Goals (see handout)
- Catholic School Office
 - Initiative is expanding. Vision of Catholic schools in Archdiocese. (see handout)
 - It is very exciting and challenging, yet realistic
 - The hope is that by the end of October, 2010, the Initiative will go to Cardinal Sean for approval.
 - It has been a challenge, but it is necessary.
- Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs Office.
 - Vision (see handout)
- Office of Religious Education
 - Vision/Goals. (see handout)
- Respect Life Education Office
 - This office is growing and the needs are great.

Questions asked of Sr. Clare, from APC Members:

Q: What is involved with the certification of catechists?

A: Well, there are different ways of being certified. There is an 8 night program available in the Archdiocese, which is 8 nights of Basic Catechetical Skills. There is a program offered through the University of Dayton, via the computer. There is an Echoes of Faith program that can also be used, and a video series.

Q: How come there are only 20 college campuses serviced by Campus Ministry in the Archdiocese?

A: We are trying to expand it, but the relationship to RCAB office is very important. The work of campus ministry is critical.

Communication and Public Relations – Terrance C. Donilon, Secretary

- It has been a quiet period lately due to the addition of the new leadership team in the Archdiocese.
- My group continues to promote trust and communication in the Archdiocese.
- We always look for new ways to do this.
- We are focusing on the Pilot and BCTV. Trying to increase Pilot subscriptions.
- We have to find new ways to get the message out.
- Print media can be a challenge for us; we want to work with them.
- Sacred Heart in Weymouth is having its groundbreaking of a new church tomorrow.
- Internal Communication has improved with Fr. Erikson's emails.
- We are moving onto a period of having the Cardinal get his message out.
- Kevin Shea's group has been a huge help with this.

Questions asked of Terrance C. Donilon, by APC Members

Q: As you develop your communication plan, I suggest you find ways to reach out to younger Catholics. Reach out to Catholic schools and colleges through your communication group.

Q: I am disappointed with the lack of communication with APC members via our website.

A: I agree that we need to work harder and get better connected. Yes we need to focus on our youth and be proactive.

Q: Any thoughts to having BCTV on satellite?

A: BCTV is working with internet providers to help find new ways to deliver its programming. One of the key elements that we need to address is getting BCTV on a permanent channel.

Q: Has BCTV thought about distance learning?

A: We tried but it's been cost prohibitive.

Financial and Administrative Services, Jim McDonough, Secretary, Chancellor

Jim worked in finance and banking for 30 years.

- He noted that this new job is fascinating with a breadth of issues to handle.
- We have a commitment to financial transparency.
- 850 million in investments are being managed by my groups.
- We manage facilities for parishes in the Archdiocese, with over 1,000 buildings.
- We insure 2 billion in Archdiocese.
- We have 40 plus entities overseas.
- We have a talented staff doing all of this work noted above.
- The key has been to focus externally, a focus on priests, parishes, schools and hospitals.
- We have done a great job of pairing down our budget so now we can use our money wisely. Not on overhead.
- Fr. Coyle's job of managing the overhaul was amazing.
- Fr. Rich Erikson has been a great leader in such a short time. He has great openness.
- We have a chance now to do something good.
- We have some real estate challenges, but top people have responded because they want to support Cardinal Sean and see him succeed.

Questions to Jim McDonough from APC Members:

Q: Diversity of activities under your umbrella, so have you thought of outsourcing any?

A: I've only been here 90 days, so I am trying to get to parishes and yes we are talking about it.

Institutional Advancement – Scot Landry, Secretary

Thank you for being on the APC. I started this job on August 1, and I hope my business background will help me to do this job well. Since I have only been here a month, I'll tell you about what I do:

- I oversee the Catholic Appeal. As of today, we have \$10.4 million and our goal is \$13 million.
- On the parish side, how can my office help parishes to increase collections?
- How can my office increase the number of supporters? It was 100,000 before the scandal and now it is roughly \$55,000.
- We need to look at Best Practices. We need to look at successful development offices in Boston and follow their lead. (like Harvard)
- We need to market "Planned Gifts"
- We need better communication. People give to groups they feel connected to. How can we provide value through the year, so they want to give?
- We have challenges with the Catholic Appeal. They are:
 - Shorten the Cycle to 4 to 6 months, rather than 12 months.
 - We need to embrace technology. We are in one of the technology capitals of the world. So we have to use it to increase giving and bring people back.
 - We have to make it easier for people to give, for example credit cards.
 - We need to do a better job collaborating all the archdiocesan groups in need and get a good model going for career advancement.
 - How can we use the Archdiocesan Bi-Centennial as an opportunity to bring people back?

Questions for Scot Landry from APC Members

Q: Why shorten the window on the Catholic Appeal?

A: We rely on local leaders to promote it, so it puts them in a tough position if they have other needs for their parish.

Q: Have you looked at the size of donations after the fourth month?

A: No, but we are looking at how we can encourage people to give sooner.

Q: Are your totals including pledges?

A: Yes, we've collected \$9.3 million to date.

Q: What is the status of Promise of Tomorrow fund?

A: Not released by the Attorney General yet. But other money being used for what is was intended.

Pastoral and Ministerial Services, Reverend Arthur Coyle, Secretary.

- 13 offices were reduced to 5. We wanted to become an office supporting parishes.
- Our budget had to be reduced to 1.04 million. We did this with no major losses.
- We have the following offices:

- Office of Cultural Diversity. This office welcomes newcomers. There are over 90 parishes in the archdiocese with cultural diversity. This office provides for their pastoral ministries.
- Office of Lay Ecclesial Ministries. The aim is to provide resources to pastoral associates and business managers in the archdiocese. It is very new and very helpful. Stewardship ministry is part of this Office. The idea is to get people involved and then their giving increases.
- Office of Life and Family Ministries. This office ministers to people at all stages of life. There are other smaller ministries that come under this office. We need to look at outreach to elders.
- Office of Parish Outreach Ministries. This office is an extension of the parish and its outreach services.
- Office of Worship and Spiritual Life.

Each of these offices was an island to itself before Fr. Art came. Then people began to trust each other and became a team of five merged offices.

Questions for Fr. Art, from APC Members:

Q: What about the pro-life office?

A: It is under Social Services.

Q: Can you speak about vocations?

A: There is a vocations office with 2 full time priests and 1 for Hispanic speaking people. Also, 1 person for parish vocation team.

Q: I'd like to affirm the meeting with clergy personnel. We need to do better at this and applaud this effort by the Archdiocese.

A: We're looking to move in a collaborative effort.

Q: I was disappointed not to see the Knights of Columbus listed.

A: They are a separate group and operate on a State level, not an archdiocesan one.

Q: Where are Catholic Charities listed?

A: Under Social Services.

One of the advantages of the new structure is that it is broad and allows for teamwork with Fr. Art and Fr. Erikson.

Office of Regional Services – Sr. Marian Batho, Secretary

Sr. Marian has been in the Archdiocese since 1998 as part of the Jubilee Committee. Then she was a Delegate for Religious.

- Regional Services came from the O'Connor group. It means to bring the services of the Chancery closer to the parishes.
- Because there is a gap between the Chancery and parishes, it is an important office.
- The vision of this office is to bridge the gap.
- Sr. Marian compared this job to a jigsaw puzzle. She is trying to figure out how to fit the pieces together.
- She is meeting with pastors, regional bishops to figure out how to do this.
- These are the needs she sees:
 - Communication

- Conversation
- Clarification
- She is hearing that the Chancery operations seem complex to people.
- She is trying to find the situations that slip through the cracks.
- She thinks that Regional Services should help fix these cracks. See suggested beginnings. (see handout)
- She said that we are being invited to help finish the “production”. To help fill in the lines. She is in a listening mode. She wants to help fill in the gaps.

Questions for Sr. Marian, from APC Members

Q: We should try to have an online resource for parish services.

A: Yes, I agree. Great idea.

Q: Are you operating alone on this?

A: Yes and no. It is projected that I’ll receive some assistance in the future. As it begins to grow.

Other Questions for Cardinal Sean, from APC Members

Q: How is this Cabinet changed from the past?

A: The Cabinet structure allows us to give cohesion in the life of the church. In the past, too many people reported to the Cabinet. It’s been made a bit smaller. We are looking for ways for regionalization, including Auxiliary Bishops. The hope is to have Auxiliary Bishops in place by December, 2006. The regionalization will be enhanced by the Auxiliary Bishops. This is a smaller cabinet group now. But we will connect with the regions through the Auxiliary Bishops.

Q: Does the new Cabinet have more lay people and women?

A: No. (Fr. Art said) There are two more Cabinet positions not here tonight. Fr. Brian Hare, Secretary of Social Services and Dr. John Chessare, **Interim** President and CEO Caritas Christi.

Q: All presentations tonight show how much work the archdiocese is doing. Regular people should be made known of all this good work.

A: Regional Services will help with this. We are working towards having representatives from each region.

Q: I would like to reiterate the quality of the presentations here tonight. Would the new Secretary’s consider a periodic email to APC members, to give an update?

A: Terrance C. Donilon said: Yes, Kevin Shea is working on it. Cardinal Sean said: We are trying to get email addresses from parishes so the Archdiocese can directly communicate with its people. This would make people feel informed and also when there are problems, the archdiocese can tell its side of the story. So, by the end of September, each priest will have an RCAB email address. The next phase is to develop an internet site for all parishes. So monthly mailings from the Archdiocese can go out.

Q: APC member commented on the Cardinal’s intended discussion with Voice of the Faithful members.

A: Cardinal Sean said that he knows there are many committed Catholics in Voice of the Faithful. He said they had a good, frank discussion. He said that the Archdiocese is willing to work with all committed Catholics to bring back the faithful.

Cardinal Sean Closing Remarks:

Cardinal Sean told the APC members: "You are the voice of the faithful to me. Thank you for serving the Church. The Church needs your help. I will be going back to Rome, for a ceremonial trip. I will be celebrating Mass at the Padre Pio shrine. On October 1, 2006, I will take possession of *Santa Maria de la Toria*. It is a tiny, beautiful church. There is a famous statue of St. Theresa of Avila there. I will be praying for the people of the Archdiocese of Boston, while I am in Rome. This reminds me that we are part of something bigger, Christ's body."

Meeting ended at 8:59 PM with all in attendance reciting the "Glory Be".

/js