

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council
November 6, 2008
Minutes

Sr. Marian Batho opened the meeting at 6:40PM. She introduced Sr. Mary Prinisky, O.P., Executive Director of the Labor Guild.

Labor Guild

Sr. Mary Prinisky began as Executive Director in June 2008 following the lengthy tenure of the legendary Fr. Ed Boyle, S.J. She related the history and current focus of the Labor Guild. The Archdiocese started the Guild in the mid 1940's in order to bring the Catholic perspective to labor relations. The Guild works from the basement of Sacred Heart Church in Weymouth with a staff of three. They produce a monthly newsletter, offer arbitration services and monitor union elections as requested by the Commonwealth. Many of the recipients of the Guild's services are immigrants whom the Guild organizes and informs about their rights as workers. The Guild offers a nine-session course in the School of Labor Relations. Their publication "Your Rights on the Job" explains federal and state labor laws and has become a valuable resource for both employers and employees. At one time, there were over 100 such guilds across the country, but the Labor Guild in Boston, which has always had strong leadership, is the only one viable today. The Guild regularly works with the Massachusetts Interfaith Organization for Social Justice. A fund in Fr. Ed Boyle's name has recently been established to raise money for hiring a graduate student intern to assist with the Guild's work. One may contact the Labor Guild at www.laborguild.com or laborguild@aol.com.

Massachusetts Catholic Conference

Ed Saunders, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, gave a presentation on the work of the MCC. The MCC, formed in 1969, is the public policy voice of the Roman Catholic Church in Massachusetts. The four diocesan bishops serve as its Board of Governors; the MCC is supported by all four dioceses in the state. The staff of the MCC monitors legislation being considered in Massachusetts. When issues arise that relate to Church teaching, the staff refers the legislation to one or more of its six committees for evaluation. The six committees include: Social Justice and Human Services; Education; Family Life/Pro-Life; Healthcare; Legal/Fiscal Affairs; and Economic/Political/Societal Affairs. The committees may recommend publicly-voiced support, indirect support, neutrality, quiet opposition or public opposition. The MCC might respond by speaking at a legislative hearing, sending a written opinion to legislators or by speaking one-on-one with the state representatives. Mr. Saunders distributed a folder containing examples of MCC statements on some recent issues. The MCC has also developed educational materials for parishes concerning end-of-life decisions, election guidelines and sex education in public schools. The MCC web address is www.macathconf.org.

Announcements and Updates

Members should remember to check www.rcabcuria.org regularly for Archdiocesan news. Herb Lynch has been appointed to the Improved Financial Relationship Committee (IFRC) to work with Scot Landry on the new financial model proposed for the Cardinal's Appeal. Sr. Marian requested that APC members encourage their parishes to publicize the collection for retired religious sisters scheduled for December 13 – 14.

Kevin Casey and Sr. Marian addressed the newly-appointed Vicars Forane at their October 2nd orientation. Their presentation gave an overview of the APC and its objectives, especially the role of communicating with parishes. Fr. Erikson encouraged vicars to invite their APC representatives to vicariate meetings. After the orientation, Sr. Marian sent contact information for APC representatives to each vicar. Sr. Marian would appreciate feedback on this initiative.

Social Justice Committee

Pat Dineen, committee chair, reported that since the last APC meeting in September they had met with representatives of the Massachusetts Catholic Conference (MCC). She asked that APC members gather by region tonight and exchange information about current social justice programs in their collaboratives. Members also brainstormed ideas for increasing awareness of the Church's teachings on social justice. This information was recorded and submitted to the committee.

Completed APC Terms

Cardinal Sean and Sr. Marian expressed appreciation to the following people who were completing their terms as APC members:

Kevin Casey	Sr. Mark Lewis
Ellen Connell	John Mulcahy
Kevin Delehanty	Fr. Frank Silva
Jane Devlin	Fr. Leonard O'Malley
Bro. John Kerr, CFX	

Closing Remarks

Cardinal Sean announced that the Arise Program which was endorsed by the APC a few years ago now had registered 30,000 participants.

At the closing Mass of the Bi-Centennial Year of the Archdiocese Cardinal Sean will be presenting awards to several outstanding volunteers. He intends to continue this in future years and will ask one-third of parishes each year to nominate long-time volunteers for recognition.

As a result of the 2010 Initiative, enrollment continues to rise in the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools. Fundraising efforts brought in \$50M for the schools this year. Cardinal Sean expressed hope that the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, the APC Social Justice Committee and the Presbyteral Council would work together along with the Archdiocesan offices involved in social justice.

He mentioned the upcoming collections for the retired religious sisters and the clergy retirement fund in December noting that these offer very teachable moments about social justice. Lastly, he invited everyone to the closing Mass of the Bi-Centennial Year at the cathedral on November 23rd, the feast of Christ the King.

Cardinal Sean closed the meeting with prayer at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Robotham
Recording Secretary