

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council
January 10, 2010
Summary

Update from the Archdiocesan Vocations Office

Fr. Dan Hennessey, Director of the Vocations Office, described the current efforts to create a culture of vocations in the Archdiocese. He distributed a handout listing the many outreach initiatives offered by the Vocation Office. Fr. Dan said that there were no materials available at this time to advise parents on vocation awareness. He emphasized that parents should encourage all children to seek an understanding of what God wants for them.

APC Member Updates

Sr. Marian announced that Maureen O'Brien and Buffy Walsh received Cheverus Awards in January for their outstanding service to the Church. She welcomed Leo Byron, Charles Famolare, Michele Felix, Ann Paradis, Maryann Sadowski, Joseph Sanon and Nancy Sheehan as new APC members. Reappointed members are Herb Lynch, Betty Sniegowski and Buffy Walsh.

Catholics Come Home

Secretary for Faith Formation and Evangelization, Janet Benestad is working on two initiatives for evangelization in the Archdiocese. The 'Light is on for You' is a Lenten program offering the sacrament of Reconciliation every Wednesday evening in every parish. The second program is 'Catholics Come Home' developed by a Catholic media specialist in Phoenix. The first phase will be the design and launch of a website. Phase two will follow in Advent 2010 with a series of targeted TV commercials. Phase three calls for the creation of a welcoming atmosphere in parishes to engage new members.

Proposed Catechetical Certificate

Drs. Angela and David Franks described the proposed Catechetical Certificate program at St. John's Seminary entitled "Mission to Evangelize". Skills workshops, spiritual reflections as well as classes in developmental psychology and pedagogy will supplement a 32-hour theological core based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Classes will be held from 9AM until 3PM on eight Saturdays during the year. Anyone may apply for the program. Tuition is expected to be \$250.

Continued Discussion on Pastoral Planning

Joshua Phelps, Assistant Director of the Office of Pastoral Planning, reported that the office is preparing a new manual for Parish Pastoral Councils (PPCs). They are currently researching PPC manuals used in other U.S. dioceses. The new manual will help parishes work with neighboring parishes and will facilitate the sharing of best practices.

Closing Remarks

Sr. Marian requested that council members spread the good messages shared at this meeting when they contact the parishes with which they are linked.

The Cardinal spoke appreciatively of the generous response from the people of the Archdiocese for the injured and homeless in Haiti.

Many parishes are participating in the March for Life in DC. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated at the Pastoral Center tomorrow morning before they depart.

St. John's Seminary has almost 100 seminarians now and is so full that the annual Vocation Discernment Retreat cannot be held there this year.

Cardinal Sean stated that he had a great experience with the young evangelists at the Focus meeting in Orlando he recently attended. Focus is a peer ministry program on college campuses including those in Boston.

Fr. O'Leary, Rector of the Cathedral is getting the site ready for the upcoming Women's and Men's conferences.

Cardinal ended the meeting with prayer at 9:10PM and wished everyone a safe journey home.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Robotham
Recording Secretary