

## **Minutes of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council meeting January 19, 2011**

On January 19, 2011 the APC met at 5:30 p.m in the Chapel at the Pastoral Center in Braintree for Evening Prayer and Grace. A light dinner was available after prayer for all in attendance and the meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m.

### **Opening Remarks**

Sister Marian Batho opened the meeting and welcomed re-appointed and new members. She also made an announcement about the upcoming Vocation Discernment Retreat. Also announced was the Evening of Prayer and Conversation For Men and Women Interested in Religious Life.

Cardinal Seán then made opening remarks. He informed the group about the sad death of David Thorp and asked that all remember him and his wife and family. The Cardinal also spoke about Evangelization Sunday coming up on 1/23/2011 as well as Pro-Life Sunday 1/23/2011, and the Cardinal's plan to be at the March in Washington D.C. The Cardinal welcomed all to attend the transitional deacon ordinations scheduled for Saturday.

### **Presentation on the Catholic Media Secretariat by Scot Landry**

A slide presentation described the new Catholic Media Secretariat and its plans to improve our communication via Catholic media including use of New Media. He discussed why the new Secretariat was established and how it can assist parishes with evangelization. He mentioned the purchase of Parish Communications to improve and enable communication as well as to fund ministries. With the bulletins produced this way, the parish controls the content and gets a better quality bulletin. He mentioned a need for more blogging, and said that Twitter would come later, after blogs and Facebook. The opening of Catholic Radio was announced. Prayers are welcome for Spanish/Portuguese Catholic radio – the secretariat is working with Fr. Paco on this.

### **Presentation on Catholics Come Home by Janet Benestad**

APC members received handouts including a copy of the presentation on Catholics Come Home and ideas for hospitality to returning Catholics. The website is <http://www.catholicscomehomeboston.org/> and has many useful tools. Parishes are receiving DVD's and pew cards. The launch is for Ash Wednesday, and the ads will run through Lent.

### **Presentation on the Institute for the New Evangelization by Drs. David and Angela Franks**

Members received a copy of this slide presentation announcing the establishment of the Theological Institute for the New Evangelization (TINE) and its degree and non-degree programs. See <http://www.bostoncatholic.org/tine.aspx> An open house on March 24 2011 was also announced. APC members were interested in what courses were being offered and in whether there was overlap between the MAM program and the MTS program. The presenters indicated that there was overlap and that an MAM grad could later study additional courses to

obtain an MTS. It was noted that these programs were primarily offered in Brighton but that certificate programs would be offered in the regions.

### **Discussion by region on what needs to be considered moving forward in light of Archdiocesan evangelization priorities, as well as how APC can assist.**

North region discussed the importance of hospitality, the concern about the resources to launch, and the conviction that Catholics Come Home was for all, not just for staff.

The Central region discussed the importance of the Arise program, faith sharing and hospitality as well as dynamic liturgies that involve the whole person.

The Merrimack region talked about evangelization and what each of us can do one on one. They felt it was important to listen, hear where the person is, and invite them to Mass.

South region talked about Catholics Come Home and thought it was important to make sure all parishes have materials. They felt people in parishes needed to be proactive, hospitable and to set a good example. They also emphasized the importance of good faith stories, listening, and friendship.

West region talked about the issues of mobility, accessibility and distance learning, as well as the option to audit courses and take “teaser” classes for free. They discussed offering more basic education (e.g. The Mass 101) for returning Catholics, and for being Eucharistic in evangelization

Religious sisters also talked about more involvement with those returning as desirable.

### **Follow-up from Previous Meetings**

The first followup item was to state that the Archdiocese has settled on its Catholic School Admission Policy and that the policy has been published.

The second followup item was on the pastoral planning presentation. Fr. David Couturier is in the process of constituting an implementation committee.

### **What do I need to hear?**

A member asked what would be the reaction to lawyers making statements? The Cardinal did not plan to respond much beyond correcting factual errors.

A member also commented on the need for new guidelines for Parish pastoral councils, and suggested an evangelization piece for the May meeting.

A member commented on the need to translate materials for certain language groups and possible ability to help. Cardinal Sean suggested contacting Janet Benestad.

A member commented on the suffering from closed parishes.

A member talked about the importance of priests being ready for Catholics Come Home, and felt stressed priests should get a break. Pastors need to receive team skills. Priest relationships with

the Archdiocese need to be healed. Parishes want Archdiocese to get out of their way and let them minister.

Another member observes the same.

A member observed that having 2 churches with one business office works, in part because of retired priests.

A member said that parish schools need resources “Children will bring their parents back”

A member expressed increasing enthusiasm for Catholics Come Home

A member said that priests are working very hard and should be given encouragement. Another member agrees with this.

### **Closing Remarks by Cardinal Seán**

Cardinal Seán indicated that for pastoral planning to function, people must be on board. With respect to the Vocations Retreat and the Evening of Prayer and Conversation For Men and Women Interested in Religious Life, Cardinal Sean said that this was a very important event in the life of the Archdiocese of Boston and he asked APC members to encourage attendance. With regard to Catholics Come Home, he noted that the Arise program had yielded 40,000 people and hoped that people trained through Arise could play a role in welcoming Catholics coming home.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer,

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Devlin