

PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES
Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Members Present: Bishop John, Fathers, Aneesh Parappanattu, , Anselm Eke, Chuck Mazouch, Jim Dieker, Mark Brantley and Ted Skalsky

Excused Absent: Father Bob Schremmer

Father Mark Brantley was welcomed as the newly appointed member of the Presbyteral Council.

Pastoral Office

Active Shooter Follow-Up (summary of meeting from Dan Stremel)

A meeting was held September 6, 2018 with two persons from Catholic Mutual Group, three law enforcement personnel, a parishioner from Larned, the Office and Facilities manager from Cathedral and three Chancery personnel.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather information to be developed into resources for parishes to use in preparing for possible emergency situations. While active shooter was the primary focus of this meeting, there are many other emergency situations a parish should have plans for (such as tornado, fire, medical emergency, etc.)

Law enforcement commented it is not prudent for parishioners to be armed with guns because in an active shooter situation, when law enforcement arrives they may not be able to distinguish a parishioner with a gun and the shooter.

Catholic Mutual representatives talked about the materials they have available that may be distributed. Law enforcement spoke about ALICE training and they are available to conduct inspections of facilities to assess the vulnerabilities present. Parish representatives spoke of the variety of viewpoints of their parishioners with regard to conceal carry permits and the need for training of ushers and greeters. One person noted older parishioners are afraid to come to church if they know other parishioners are carrying guns.

Resources will be gathered and distributed to parishes for whatever education and training they wish to offer their parishioners.

End of Life Documents and Information for Priests (Father Chuck)

After the untimely and unexpected death of Father Henry Hildebrandt a few years ago, it became more evident why we are asked to have certain documents on file at the chancery office:

- A copy of a priest's will and name/contact information of executor should be on file at the Chancery Office. This may be submitted in a sealed envelope.
- In a separate document, provide information about your wishes regarding the funeral: which funeral home, place of funeral, and place of burial. You may also provide instructions for the funeral liturgies and the names of persons you wish to have a part.
- A list of passwords, bank accounts, where keys may be found (for car, house, storage building, etc.) Make sure someone else (a secretary or a family member) knows this as well.
- Names and contact information of persons you wish to be contacted at the time of your death.
- One may wish to consider having a living will on file; naming a durable power of attorney for health decision and/or a durable power of attorney for financial decisions.

Sanctifying Office

Holy Hour in Reparation for the Sins of Sexual Abuse (Bishop John)

The first Holy Hour was celebrated on September 16 at Cathedral. The remaining are: September 23 at Great Bend, September 30 at Garden City and October 14 at Liberal. The first three are in English and the last one will be celebrated in Spanish.

Materials have been emailed to priests from the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) and Bishop John encourages pastors to lead Holy Hours or prayer services in their own parishes.

Marriage Preparation (Fr. Jim)

They recently had to cancel the Spanish Engaged Encounter because only four couples had registered. The ideal number for a weekend is 6-15 couples. Next spring we will be celebrating ten years of offering Engaged Encounter in Spanish (we have had 23 weekends and more than 100 couples have participated).

While there has been favorable feedback from those who have participated, we are at a point of discernment of whether to continue offering Engaged Encounter in Spanish.

It was noted that participation in Engaged Encounter in English is also diminishing. They recently had only four couples registered as well.

Comments:

- I have found it difficult to get Spanish-speaking couples to go to a weekend (due to work schedules or because they have children).
- I have found it difficult to get mentor couples.
- Are there couples who have participated in the Engaged Encounter who could give a testimonial of how it helped and assisted them?
- Fewer couples are getting married (English-speaking and Spanish-speaking)

Teaching Office

Evangelization with Joy (Bishop John)

At the Fall Priest Convocation in October we will be dialoging with the topic of "Evangelization with Joy," which is based on #24 from Pope Francis' *Joy of the Gospel*:

- Center on Jesus
- How to be Missionary Disciples
- How to do this in our cultural reality

Bishop John asked for suggestions of topics with regard to evangelization during the Presbyteral Assembly on Thursday morning of the Convocation.

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 27. (It was moved from November 20 to November 27 due to the 5th & 6th Grade Vocation Day on November 20 at the Cathedral).