

PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL MEETING
NOTES Tuesday, January 8, 2019

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

Excused Absent: Fathers Anselm Eke

Correspondence: Fr. Bob presented the draft Agreement for Missionary Priests serving in the Diocese for clarity and defined benefits allowing for flexibility to the requests of specific religious superiors and bishops. Note the specific additions to the document: the retirement benefit is clarified, initiated a five-year (rather than a three-year) agreement, allowing time for travel for vacation and a specific loan rate and insurance for automobile ownership.

Pastoral Office

Evangelization with Joy: Methodology (Bishop John)

Bishop shared his desire to define the next step in the initiation of Pope Francis' "Joy of the Gospel," particularly #24, in our diocese. Father Bob shared some other concepts of evangelization from authors he has read.

At the priest Pre-Lenten Day of Recollection Bishop John will present "Evangelization with Joy." At the Spring Presbyteral Assembly (April 30-May 2 at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita) we'll look at practical details of a program of evangelization. At the January 10 Hispanic Ministers meeting, Sr. Angela will present information from the V Encuentro.

Question: Should we hold listening sessions and/or pastoral council sessions to talk about evangelization? What are your ideas on evangelization...your hopes and dreams for the Church?

Some Suggestions/Ideas:

- Adding "Evangelization" to the four pillars of stewardship (Hospitality, Formation, Service, Prayer). Evangelization was included in a document 30 years ago—one of eight pillars for youth ministry.
- The book "The Art of Accompaniment"
- Seminarian Austin Habash has developed a three-layer team for evangelization: two-by-two neighborhood visiting teams, prayer warriors and another group for financial and logistical support.
- St. Paul's Street Evangelization program
- Lay involvement and having trained lay ministers is crucial when the priest is unable to be present due to having multiple parishes.
- How do we become poor for the poor acknowledging the poor typically are those not going to church? How do we get the true *sensus fidelum* from a pastoral council or from the coffee group?

Priest "help out" Availability (Bishop John)

Several missionary priests often take their month-long vacation sometime after Christmas. When three or four priests are gone at the same time, how do we provide supply? Father Aneesh will talk with the missionary priests, as well as Fathers Peter Tran and Khoi Nguyen, to see if it would be possible to develop a rotational schedule for vacations instead of three or four all being gone for a month at the same time.

Sanctifying Office

Lent 2019: Acts of Kindness for Priestly Vocations (Bishop John)

This is the last of the initiatives. “Fruit of the Vine, Work of Human Hands” and performing corporal works of mercy are possibilities. Articles will be published in the SKC and/or podcast downloads will be made available.

Music for Spanish Roman Missal (Fr. Ted)

Sr. Angela and Carlos Castro will have a workshop on parts of the Mass on February 9.

June Retreat for Priests

Retreat will be the first week of June. We are still negotiating with the Diocese of Wichita.

Teaching Office

Safe Environment: What more to form, catechize, follow-up? (Bishop John)

SKC articles on Safe Environment have appeared in each issue since September. Are there other possible topics to highlight?

Comments/Discussion:

- The balance between transparency and confidentiality is difficult. General notes of a Review Board meeting could be publicized but not specific cases being discussed.
- The question remains: What is the appropriate release of information of who has been accused of “substantiated” or “credible” or “more likely than not” allegations.
- A copy of the flyer on reporting abuse was handed out. In addition to encouraging reporting to civil authorities, we—the Church—also has a need to know in order to support to the victim and provide a pastoral response.
- One member shared from his reading it seems the only way to overcome the lack of trust that has resulted from cover-ups and poor decisions by bishops is some kind of national board with lay oversight.

Safe Environment: Suggestions for Review Board (Bishop John)

- Diversity of members of the Review Board: currently we have only one woman, but would like more. Also, we’d like to have someone on the RB with a law enforcement background.
- Should we have or do we need to have an “investigative team.” To be a member of the Review Board one must be Catholic, but members of an investigative team would not need to be.
- What is the role of the Assistance Minister?
- What is the process if a seminarian is harassed or abused?
- What about listening sessions throughout the diocese? Would a diocesan representative or member of the Review Board be present?
- Should it be a requirement that all confessionals have glass viewing windows?

Next meeting is **Tuesday, February 19, 2019**