

Archdiocesan Pastoral Assembly Agenda Saturday, October 9, 2021

Cardinal Rigali Center

Fleur de Lis Room

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Opening Prayer– Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski

Welcome – Nancy J. Werner, Chancellor, Archdiocese of St. Louis

- 105 parishes projected to be in attendance
- Assembly #11
- Will cover scope and timeline of All Things New – pastoral planning process
- Presentations from the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) and Diocese of Pittsburg
- This is an annual assembly designed to raise up current events and discuss
- This is the first time unpacking, in a compressive way, the pastoral planning process

Archbishop Rozanski – why planning, why now and intro Fr. Martin

- This room was filled with priests yesterday
- Why – we have lived as an immigrant church for decades
- Nones – not nuns – those that have any affiliation
- We have to be different in way that we proclaim the gospel; we can't expect people to come to us because of culture; people move, and have no anchor

9:15 a.m. All Things New Strategic Pastoral Planning Initiative-Session 1

Fr Chris Martin – born and raised in STL, priest Archdiocese; most recently pastor St. Clare of Assisi; new role Vicar of Strategic planning; this will impact archdiocese next 75 years;

Today's objectives *(slide 2)*

- Provide a platform for Archbishop to share vision; 3 themes
- Integrate prayer, evangelize efforts and strategic planning for parishes, schools, and archdiocese ministry under share thematic framework (then infrastructure – *it is an evangelization plan that will dramatically impact our infrastructure, not vice versa*)
- Share summary of initial feedback and findings from prelim data as well as outline of key milestones and activities for 2021 thru 2023
- Engage those gathered in targeted questions around scope

Rev 21:3-5 *(slides 3- 6)*

- God is with us
- Change is good
- All things being made new
- “never heard, do nothing, keep doing what you're doing” He's always calling us to do mission
 - o Deeper relationship, on-going conversion and mission

Spiritual battles going on – pervasive spirit of discouragement; entering into a desert time, no waves of converts; victories are going to be mustard seeds; no magic DVD; second is fatigue, people are tired, if not tired they get angry (especially with the pandemic) – that's okay, acknowledge it and pray for gift to overcome it; lastly from priest in diocese – on prayer for a spirit of suppleness; Archdiocese first parish second; resistance to carping, criticizing... pray to resist that spirit and ask God the Holy Spirit of conversion (priests themselves looking to be re-inspired and invigorated by the Holy Spirit)

Why here today – need to allow the Holy Spirit; first, primary tasks are piritual, intellectual around evangelization; then abandonment

Mike School – Exec VP Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) (an apostolic in the church) from VA six kids 6-16

Why not instead of why; what’s in our way, what’s stopping us; why: *(slides 7-8)*

- Develop a plan – create a vibrant Catholic presence not a building; renew church, renew mission, vibrant future
- 3 guiding principles *(slide 9)* – transparency (financials, enrollment PSR, sacraments (should have more baptisms than funerals) – share in a public way, brings vulnerability, fear (trumped by authenticity and honesty), listening (takes time – not just closing, could do in 2 months and would lose 500K parishioners; will hear about others similarities what happens in other dioceses, and others are different, but will be radical (listen to every square mile); feedback (what are people thinking and how does it impact what is being proposed)
- Past 2 months *(slide 10)*
 - o Priest online survey 194 of 300 active/retired
 - o Deacons online survey 117 of 193 deacons
 - o 1-1 interview 31 participants
 - o Focus groups (80 participants in 13 focus)
 - o Advisory bodies (200 participants, finance councils, etc.)
 - o Top 15 feedback themes (600 people) *(slides 11-12)*
 1. STL has a strong Catholic identity and culture
 2. Archdiocese serves a great diversity of people who need more support and ministry (more than have received – peripheries)
 3. Hemorrhaging youth and young adults, need a bolder approach to address this population
 4. Past Archdiocese and evangelization efforts have fallen short and appear non-existent
 5. Too parochial (local, connected to our parish, forget our neighbors) – don’t work together at all levels, parishes very silo’d and autonomous
 6. Big division between the city and suburbs
 7. Number of schools exceeds the needs and is hampering our ability to do other important ministry
 8. Schools are known for being great for educating people about Catholic beliefs but they do not form students as life-long Catholics (college prep programs, not preparing for kingdom but earthly next step)
 9. Priests and parishes generally feel unsupported by Archdiocese; Communication, overall support, and relationships need improvement
 10. More focus needed on lay leadership and participation
 11. Need more encouragement and empathy for priests – priests want and need healing and courageous decision making
 12. We can’t keep doing things the way we are doing them, change is necessary (pouring money into the same)
 13. Our recent past has shown big plans but fall short when it comes to execution – has to be different
 14. Over time the process may cause ill will and conflict that will divide the priests and laity
 15. We must be bold and forward-looking

- 3 goals *(slide 13)*
 1. Unceasing prayer
 2. Unifying vision – understand what evangelization is and isn't
 3. Intentional stewardship
- Scope – everyone, parishes, schools, curia (like this building), agencies (like Catholic charities), seminary; today talking about parishes, coming months other *(slide 14)*
- Timeline *(slide 15)*
 - 2 year planning – prayer discernment and planning; ends on Pentecost, May 28, 2023)
 1. Year 1 – collecting data (#s – financial, trends; stories)
 2. Year 2 model feedback and final decisions
 - Implementation (3-8 year) – Fall 2023 – 2028
- Fr. Joseph McCaffry (Fr. Mac) Pittsburgh – was part of a growing suburb, then reassigned to rural to facilitate merger of 7 parishes
 - 90s 300 to 188, now 188 to 57 in Diocese in Pittsburgh
 - Experienced heart surgery, but we are survivors
 - Went thru it in a painful way and we will learn from their mistakes
 - Prior assignment 19 years ago, it was 7 years old, vibrant, growing; it took them 7 years; 4 masses on Sunday and he was the only priest; property next door owned by protestants; built a church for them down the road, was told to do it quickly, he was there 16 years and then this hits
 - They did not do prayer and evangelization, didn't ask people (a lot of professional people there that weren't tapped, should have been)
 - Told to move – prayer (Jesus told Peter many times to follow him)
 - Do everything they are saying about prayer – let God lead; God is with you
 - Fabulous leadership, unity, camaraderie, desire
 - Think of the thing you are holding on to – if it is less than Christ; hold on to nothing less than Christ – like the book "The Cold Within" – Flame of faith within STL, something to offer but you are holding on; all of us are responsible

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. All Things New Strategic Pastoral Planning Initiative-Session 2

Poll of the room

- Pope when you were born – 1939-1958 38%; 63-78 28%; 20% (of 190)
- (mirrored priests) – how do you feel – 42% inspired, 24% excited, 12% nervous; 11% anxious; 2% upset; 1% frustrated; 9 other; 0 shocked
- (higher than priests) – Think your church should merge – 46% true; 54% false
- (mirrored) – systematic transfer – Strongly Agree 71%; Agree 24%; Neutral 2%; Disagree 3%; Strongly disagree 1% (of 196)
- (mirrored priests) – biggest fruit/sign of success – everyone agrees 7%; more in seats in pews 9%; youth 34%; mission 45%

In 2017 examined viability – strengths and weaknesses – evangelization and shared administration
November survey of deficiencies - #1 evangelization #2 too many administrative responsibilities

Opportunity to act on them

Prayer is key – we are not a corporation *(slides 16-18)*

What is made new – it is in me to be renewed

Help with discernment; communication of vision; inspired stewardship – All Things New Prayer

The goal of evangelization of next 20 months is to remind everyone evangelization is the goal (0.6% feel prepared)

Personal encounter with the person of Jesus Christ

Fr. Martin

- Goal #1 unceasing prayer (*slides 19-20*)
 - o Holy hours, deanery on a weekly basis
 - o USA – 3 year Eucharistic revival – new prayers, intercessions
 - o We will be hearing from his office on a weekly basis
 - o Encourage organizations to share, offer up this month for renewal
 - o Population decline – 1000 convert, 2000 baptized, 5000 leave or not engaged (net loss 2000)
 - o Stop bemoaning geographic shift
 - o South / North City / County was over 4000K, now less than half
 - o How do we evangelize? What do they need – the people that walk by?
 - o Aging
 - The “nones” grew from 17% to 26% adults;
 - Millennials in the last decade 27% to 40%
 - Baptisms & marriages are half what it was 20 years agog
 - Grandparents mourning the loss of faith in grandchildren
- Goal #2 Unifying Vision (*slides 21-25*)
 - o Doing without proclamation falls short
 - o What they need vs. what they need to do
 - o Not prepared to welcome back
 - o Encouraged priests to be succinct; rated own preaching ability – 88% think they are fantastic
- Synodality Principles (*slides 26-27*)
- Discussion: What would you like to see
 - o Parish/Deanery/Archdiocese – other ways to do communication when priest’s skills are not there
 - Get back to reverence
 - Every priest can’t be everything to everyone
 - Patience on both sides
 - Lay people more visible – priests should reach out
 - Parish come together (vs same 25 people)
 - o Why are we bleeding 2K per year – is it communications?

Sr. Annie and Fr. Mac of Pittsburg

- Joys experienced – 7 parishes, outreach expanded... energy?
 - o Sr. Annie
 - What could we make Lawrence County (30% worked, rest retired, assistance, etc.)?
 - Goal became no hungry person (many people in organization were in food) – depressed area, come together every Saturday – their desire
 - o Fr. Mac
 - She (Sr. Annie) went there willingly – she is a saint
 - Move from glory days to what they are going to become – can’t look backward (can with gratitude); look forward with hope
 - You are lucky Archbishop Rozanski has 20 years of being a pastor

- Examples of unity?
 - o Fr. Mac
 - When they arrived, they didn't have mass in any one church, chose a central, neutral territory – the high school auditorium
 - In march Father knew; May it was announced; October put in to effect – get people involved immediately, no training
 - o Sr. Annie
 - “Be men and women of hope – you lead the parish, I mean the priests do :)”
 - Teamwork and drew people in to help; receive a complaint, then ask okay what can you do to solve it?
 - o The devil is discouragement; others didn't get out of the boat; Peter he walked on the water when keeping eyes on Christ; the storm is necessary; ignore the storm

11:45 a.m. Pick up box lunch and travel to break-out room

12:00 p.m. Facilitated Discussion in break-out rooms- Sr. Ebo, Lally, Fleur de Lis, Archbishop May

Yellow and orange sheets collected (120)

- Intentional stewardship – define develop plan to allocate resources *(slides 28-32)*
- Mass attendance – October counts – pre COVID was declining 0.5% per year; in 2019 only 36% of pews were occupied
- 37% of children in Catholic schools, larger than other Archdioceses; declining and PSR at more rapid rate
- 178 parishes, but by 2026 will not have enough active priests to have one per parish; 150ish priests, but must have multiple for large parishes
- 415k registered; 75k unregistered; 27k served by religious priests;
 - o See slide for # of Catholics, Parishese, etc. *(slide 33)*

CLI: Objective for year 1 (goal #3) *(slides 34-36)*

- Equip archdiocesan pastoral council (5 deaneries)
- Gather inputs, this has been started
- Jan 25 of 2022 – make “All Things New Public to the entire Archdiocese *(slide 37)*
- What did you hear today, what's missing, what do you need to do (Feast of Conversion of St. Paul – marks conversion)
- They will release website also with FAQs, contact info; provide resources; evangelize; disciple maker index – peoples' individual engagement, spirituality and engagement with their church (how helping on spiritual journey – available during Lent) – online and in paper form and in 18 different languages
- Then will share with each parish results of survey and pastor will be asked to put together a committee to look at that data – and demographic data; share what they see – what is needed to continue that Catholic presence
- That will be sent back and then models will be presented for options
- This time next year will host 400 listening sessions – at least 2 in every parish – will present demographic data, finances, enrollment in schools, mass attendance and then proposed models (3mo to do)
- Then info comes back (final info and decision from Archbishop) (this will happen May 28, 2023) – then announcement, then implement 6mo later (over 3-5 years)

(slide 40) Want to make sure there are opportunities to provide feedback and be held accountable – is there a group they (CLI) need to engage? Also suggest how they can do that.

Expectation – continue to pray and engage in the process as we move forward
Will be a weekly or bi-weekly communication that we can subscribe to

1:30 p.m. Listening Session – Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski (135)

- Evangelization – see a person and say, I want to have what this person has in their life
- Pope Francis – Christians should not be looking like coming from a funeral all the time
- Pope’s Sinnet on Synodality – how this effects this – later this month; how could they meet the culture and times they were in to meet the objective; universal faith that is all over the world – how best bring that message of the gospel to all of these different cultures; in their process as church of STL – microcosm, we reach so many places, how are we doing that effectively and what do we need to do that effectively; we’re really mirroring it here
- How to be an evangelist in his article – in the Diocese of Springfield, many from Puerto Rico came after hurricane; parish leadership held a cold weather clothing drive – had a big dinner with parishioners and those in hotels
- GREAT OBSERVATION/COMMENT: Didn’t invite any teens – please include them in the listening sessions in the surveys; commitment to service
- What can we do to support our priests in this process – from the priests that germinated the idea we need to do something different – met with young priests early on – they are ordained to serve people; as look ahead we think we are going to be custodians of buildings; we are ordained to serve people – from their voices and some of the laity; so how can we support – in today’s world it’s difficult to be in a leadership position anywhere; be understanding – days of reflection in Advent and Lent, reflect on ministry and change to get together and support one another; be conscious of what they are going thru and be supportive of them; they are the lightning rods
- Role throughout this process – August 25, 2020 installation Homily – sometimes the Bishop has to be in front of people to lead, sometimes in midst to walk along with, accompany; sometimes behind to push along (push to move on, have to do this)

1:55 p.m. Closing Remarks - Nancy J. Werner

- Where going from here – next year, Saturday, October 15 – topic progress report about today – will be assembly for next two years – today is session #1
- Communication – take info back – to councils and bulletin – will have a exec summary with slides and other kernels – landing page for Archdiocesan Pastoral Council – minutes on there
- Covered 110 parishes

2:00 p.m. All Things New Prayer - Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski