

November 30, 2015

Parishes & Guest Speakers Represented:

Vicar: *Rev. Michael Cooney*

Senior Priests: *Larry Jackson*

AoD: *Bishop Michael Byrnes, Dcn Bill Kolarik*

Our Lady of Grace: *Rev Hoang Lam*

St Blasé: *Dr Mary Dumm, Rev Randy Phillips*

St Cyril & Methodius: *Rev Ben Kosnac*

St Ephrem: *Rev Craig Giera, Dcn Ed McLeod,*

St Faustina: *Michael Adams, Sandy Acord, Linda Reiterman*

St Jane Frances de Chantal: *Rev Jerry Slowinski, Maureen Blair, Ben Klassen, Tara Stenger*

St Malachy: *Rev Joseph Gembala*

St Mark: *Rev Stanley Obloy, Denise Amenta*

St Martin de Porres: *Rev Nick Zukowski*

St Matthias: *Donna Latimer*

St Paul of Tarsus: *Dcn Marc Rybinski, George Eichorn*

St. Peter: *Sheila Roy, Moira Shaum, Judy Coll, Lori Sparagowski, Deb Goff-Lieghio*

Parishes Not Represented: San Francisco, Our Lady of Czestochwa, St Anne, St Louis, St Louise de Marillac, St Mary Queen of Families, St Michael, St Rene Goupil, St Ronald, St Sharbel, St Thecla

ROUTINE ITEMS

- ✚ Fr. Jerry Slowinski opened the meeting with prayer.
- ✚ The following correction was made to the October 19, 2015 Minutes: It was St. Blase Parish (not St. Ephrem Parish) who shared a possible solution to the scheduling of Funeral Masses. They insist that they have a body or cremains. If a body or the cremains cannot be present, it is then suggested that they have a Mass Intention with the family bringing up the gifts. The families at their parish, thus far, seem to be okay with this solution. The change was noted. The minutes were approved.

VICAR'S COMMENTS

✚ **Presbyteral Council/Vicars' Meeting**

- **Procedure for Declarations of Nullity** - There was discussion of the partial reform of the canonical process for a declaration of nullity of marriage in the Code of Canon Law. The intent of the new procedures that go into effect on December 8, 2015 is to streamline and speed up the process. New to the Application is the "Libellus of the Petitioner." A copy of the Libellus has to be sent to the Respondent by the Tribunal (not the Procurator-Advocate). "In order to qualify for a quicker process before the bishop the Respondent must participate and the nullity of the

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marriage must be immediately manifested in the Application. The Respondent must at a minimum sign a Tribunal document which indicates that he or she consents to a declaration of nullity in their case. There also must be witnesses who are willing and able to provide thorough and substantial evidence. Due to the need of the Respondent's participation, it is expected that less than 25% of the cases will qualify for the process. As far as the ordinary process, the Tribunal is making adjustments to their procedure and various documents but these will not affect the parish process. Such changes are:

- Only one affirmative decision is needed for a final declaration of nullity. Once the affirmative decision is granted by the court of first instance then the case is completed.
 - "If the affirmative decision is appealed by one of the parties or by the Defender of the Bond, then the case is not completed until the court of second instance confirms the affirmative decision."
 - A case will be accepted in Detroit as long as one of the parties has a place of residence in the AoD even if the marriage occurred outside the U.S.
- **St. John Providence Health System** – Bishop Byrnes spoke of the Anthony L. Soave Family Mobile Mammography and Health Screening Center that began traveling to Detroit community sites in April bringing state-of-the-art mammography services to medically under-served women. St. John Providence partners with the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) to provide free mammograms to uninsured women age 40-64 who qualify for the program. A generous donation from the Soave Family has made this mobile unit possible. Bishop Byrnes encouraged all parishes to consider hosting the mammography van. Those who have utilized the services find it to be very private and safe. It is the hope that the insurance payments from wealthier clients in the suburbs would pay for the Medicare or less wealthier clients. It was suggested that the ideal time to host the Mammography Van would be when a parish is hosting MCREST. For further information on the program, please call Ebony Rivers, SJF Mobile Mammography Marketing Specialist, at 313-343-8848.
 - **Policy for Planning for the Use of Funds from the Sale of Property in Parish Mergers** – A pastor and bishop must be good stewards of these properties. Exercising good stewardship includes paying back money that was borrowed in good will.
 - **Synod Preparation** – When asked if there were any questions regarding the process or variables, the reply was "no."

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 **Yearly tax for Vicariate**

- Two parishes have not paid their tax yet.
- CMV has \$9,000 in the bank.
- Per the AoD request, all vicars will write a yearly finance report.
- Discussion on defining a purpose for the vicariate money resulted in conversations on future website development; as well as the dementia workshops, which the CMV is already paying for.
- There will be a committee formed consisting of two priests and two laity who will review budget ideas.
- A presentation will be made in the future.

PRESENTATION AND ACTION ITEMS

 **Dementia Workshop Dates** – Everyone in attendance has the schedule.

 **Topics for Discussion:**

- **Financial Aid to Schools** – An open forum meeting between pastors of Catholic Schools, Archbishop Vigneron, and representatives from the Catholic Schools Council was held. Archbishop Vigneron believes that anyone who wants to send their children to catholic schools should be able to do so. Questions presented were answered. Rick Austin, Director of Finance and Administration, explained that the AoD is \$50 million in debt, not from an outside source, but from internal sources (parishes that have taken out loans). Parishes owe Michigan Catholic Conference \$17 million. The parishes are currently working at paying off loans. Priests with schools have been asking for help for over thirty years. Mr. Austin explained that we only have so much money. If you make room for added expenses, you have to write funds from where you are taking money away from. We are making progress but we have to be responsible for everything.
- **Disconnect between Priests and AoD Offices** – An opportunity to express the concerns that were mentioned at the November CMV meeting to Bishop Byrnes was extended to the priests. Questions and concerns about how to pick which of the various programs and processes to support prompted the following response from Fr. Joe Gembala: "I am confused. I am perplexed. Evangelization is not another program that downtown wants us to do. Evangelization is what we are called to do as priests. Evangelization is not another process to get done. Evangelization is inviting people to accept the love and salvation offered by OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST! And if the Archbishops calls us to a Synod in which we joyfully continue inviting others to accept Jesus as their savior, then let us rejoice, for that is not another program we must do, but rather it is the fulfilment of our purpose which is to show the love of Jesus to the world." Discussion then shifted to how we can make the meetings more constructive. Instead of just reporting, perhaps we can make our goals as a vicariate and move towards them. Another parish

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acknowledged that there are two separate items; one being frustrations, the other being general disconnections. It is a top-down process with short time returns, lack of consultation on issues, dealing with people who do not know what real parish life is like. They do not know what we are dealing with on a daily basis. If we do not sit down and dialog when Bishop Byrnes is here, we will just have to go back to complaining to no avail with no growth, no change.

BISHOP BYRNES

✚ Update on Synod – The synod seeks to advise the archbishop on broad new strategies for evangelization. It is a process. Thus far about 200 synod members have been selected by the AoD. Only one of the three people submitted by each parish will be chosen. 20-30 parishes have not submitted members. The selection/discernment process was done in a prayerful environment. Canon law is very specific with regard to “members” of the synod, which will include representatives of consultative groups such as the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, parish representatives, bishops, rectors and those appointed directly by the archbishop. It is hoped that the parish representatives will be identified and confirmed before Christmas. Beginning in March 2016, there will be Listening Sessions held at various parishes throughout the AoD. The variety of formats offered to hold parish dialog will include: town hall style, retreat style, and discussion group style. Dialog will be centered around nine questions; three questions from each of the following:

1. How does your parish help your parishioners encounter Christ?
2. How does your parish grow as a Disciple of Christ?
3. How does your parish give witness to Christ – evangelize?

They simple questions are a way for the people’s voices to be heard. It will be well worked out. In January we will have facilitator training. Leonard Bernstein said, “The key to success is a plan and not quite enough time.” I think we are on our way to success.

✚ Come, Encounter Christ – Come, Encounter Christ! Is a series of events over three consecutive evenings featuring live music, lighting, preaching and Eucharistic adoration designed to help spiritually prepare the faithful of the AoD for the work of evangelization. The schedule is available on the archdiocesan website, aod.org. If, Come, Encounter Christ! has passed by your area already, look for it in the spring. It is going around the archdiocese twice.

✚ Unleash the Gospel -- Unleash the Gospel is a broader evangelization initiative for which the synod is the launch pad. “It is a major push to change the DNA of the Church in Detroit to one of a Body of Christ on mission. We seek to bring about this change first in our hearts, through an encounter with Christ; then in our homes as we grow in our faith, and finally in our culture as we become a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

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- ✚ **Amazing Parish Conference** – will be held April 18-20, 2016. The archbishop really expects that everyone will be able to come. We have parishes who have offered to sponsor a parish in need. We have a couple of grants that will help to defray the cost for the poorer parish.
- ✚ **Updated Information** – All information on Unleash the Gospel, Synod 2016, Year of Mercy, Come, Encounter Christ, and Amazing Parish Conference is available on the AoD website, aod.org.

OPEN FORUM

- ✚ Fr. Ben Kosnac, SS Cyril and Methodias, alerted everyone that there is a man portraying himself as Byzantine priest. He is an imposter – fake. His name is Michael Goddard.
- ✚ Fr. Craig Giera, St Ephrem, spoke of and invited other parishes to participate in their Catechism Program for special needs people (up to 45 years old). The program will be put on the February agenda. Vicariate support will be considered when creating the budget.
- ✚ Fr. Ben Kosnac, SS Cyril and Methodias, recommended the “Year of Mercy Book Package” offered by Our Sunday Visitor. The “Year Of Mercy” book series includes the following books: “Celebrating Mercy, The Psalms of Mercy, The Parables of Mercy, Mercy in the Fathers of the Church, The Saints in Mercy, Mercy in the Teachings of the Popes.” They are put together very well. Pope Francis will be speaking on these themes in his weekly catechesis throughout the year.
- ✚ Fr. Joe Gembala, St Malachy, will be participating in the Year of Mercy by offering confessions immediately following the morning mass on December 8th. He will be in the confessional for 24 hours to hear confessions. During that time the Blessed Sacrament will be placed on the altar in the Monstrance for 24 hours of adoration.

Fr. Mike Cooney ended the meeting asking that all parishes submit their events/programs/mass schedules to Todd, the Vicariate Webmaster, goodnews@cmvic.net. No CMV meeting is scheduled in December or January. Thank you Fr. Jerry for hosting the meeting.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULE AT:
SS CYRIL & METHIDIUS SLOVAK CATHOLIC CHURCH
41233 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48314
MONDAY – FEBRUARY 1, 2016
PLEASE NOTIFY SS CYRIL & METHIDIUS IN ADVANCE (January 28, 2016)
OF YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR LUNCH AT
586-726-6911