

APC MEETING

October 14, 2014

After Evening Prayer and dinner, Sister Marian welcomed all to the meeting. Two new members of the APC were introduced.: Jose Ramirez from St. Catherine Parish in Westford and Joseph Melanson from St. William Parish in Tewksbury. APC member, Don Ward recently received the the St Ignatius Award from BC High. This award is given to an alumnus with an outstanding record of dedicated service.

Opening Comments – Cardinal Seán

Cardinal Seán just returned from Rome where he attended meetings of the Child Protection Commission.

Cardinal Seán celebrated the Feast of St. Francis with the Capuchin Friars in Rome, blessed their new chapel and dedicated their new altar.

Cardinal Scola of Milan asked Cardinal Seán to give conferences on the topic of “Evangelizing Cities Today”. Cardinal Seán spoke to 1,200 priests and deacons and 3,000 lay men and women of the Archdiocese of Milan on that topic.

Pastoral Priority for Local Pastoral Plan – Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood

Father Dan Hennessey, Diocesan Vocation Director led a discussion on the Pastoral Priority for Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood. He emphasized that we need to help men look differently at life. They should be asking themselves “What is it that God desires me to do with the life He has given me” rather than “What do I want to do with my life”.

Everyone should be involved in promoting all vocations but especially the Vocation of the Priesthood. Father Dan spoke of the various ways for a Parish or Collaborative to Promote Vocations

- He recommended that Parishes/collaborative should develop a Collaborative Vocation Committee for this priority. Ideally this Committee will include a broad representation from the parishes including staff, catechists, and parishioners along with the various ministries that can lead the parish in different activities. Regular scheduled events could include monthly Holy Hours for Vocations, a monthly Rosary as well as a prayer for priestly vocations in the Prayer of the Faithful at daily and Sunday Masses. The Archdiocese also has events including the St Andrew Dinners for high school students as well as the Archdiocesan Vocation Retreats for men to attend. The overarching theme of Father Dan’s ministry is the importance of a young man’s developing a relationship with God and being open to what God is asking of him. Handouts related to Father Dan’s presentation are attached to the notes.

Cardinal Seán mentioned the importance of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary. Many seminarians are from Hispanic and Portuguese speaking countries. This is so important for our Catholic faithful who are coming to the Archdiocese from these countries.

Pastoral Planning

Sister Pat Boyle, Associate Director of the Pastoral Planning Office, updated the Council on the various stages of each Collaborative

Phase One Collaborative Update:

The Phase One Collaboratives are in their process of writing the local pastoral plans. Sister Pat engaged the Council in a brief exercise to help the Council understand the elements of the local pastoral plans. There was wonderful engagement and creativity that resulted from the activity. The First Drafts of the Pastoral Plan for Phase One Collaboratives are due in December. They will then be reviewed and the final draft is due in June 2015

Phase Two Collaborative Update:

Phase Two Collaboratives are in the training stages. PPC, PFC, School Boards are all encouraged to participate in 3 separate training sessions. Topics include Leadership, Evangelization and General Topics.

Phase Three Collaborative Update:

The Phase Three Collaboratives have been announced. The Archdiocese is in the process of reviewing applications for new Pastors for the Collaboratives. Pastors will be announced and assignments will be effective in June.

Year of Consecrated Life 2015

Sister Marian presented a tentative plan for the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life that begins on November 30, 2014 (First Sunday of Advent). The theme for the year is “Wake up the World.” Pope Francis used these words in an address to Superiors General of Religious Communities in November 2013. Taking “the Church to the margins” is a very specific call of Pope Francis to the consecrated men and women throughout the world. Sister Marian explained that consecrated life included religious institutes (Sisters, Brothers and Religious Priests), consecrated virgins, hermits and secular institutes.

- Renewal – a time of reflection, prayer and rededication for men and women who live the consecrated life;
- Thanksgiving – for the dedication and many contributions of consecrated men and women to the life of the Church;
- Invitation – to our youth and young adults to learn more about consecrated life and to respond generously to God’s will for them.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in collaboration with the conferences of major superiors of men and women religious has recommended several events for the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life:

February 8, 2015 – World Day for Consecrated Life in the United States
Visits to religious houses are encouraged

July 2015 – a month dedicated to service projects with consecrated men and women.

September 13, 2015 – A Day of Prayer with consecrated men and women.

Sister Marian also mentioned Fiat and Samuel Circles, monthly discernment groups for women and men. An outline of tentative plans for the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life is attached.

Announcements

Sister Marian mentioned the Annual Social Justice Convocation that will take place on October 25. DVD's of previous conferences are available for members to view and share with their assigned parishes.

Communication Committee

The Communications Committee thanks all who participated in the Survey. Bob Dilando has summarized the results. The Committee will share the results of the survey at a future meeting.

Sincere thanks for Philomene Peán for assisting with translating some of the materials to be included in the APC Toolbox.

The Communications Committee will be reviewing the APC website next. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Closing Comments – Cardinal Seán

The best practice for evangelization is when we are convinced of God's goodness.

Kathleen Mears is the new superintendent of Catholic Schools. She began on September 15th and comes to the Archdiocese with significant experience at NCEA and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

On October 26 there will be a combined celebration of the Red Mass and the White Mass. Ambassador Ken Hackett will be the speaker.

The Archdiocese mourns the loss of Bishop John Boles – a very dedicated Bishop and educator for many years. Please pray for the repose of Bishop Boles and the consolation of his family.

The meeting closed with the Prayer from the Instrumentum Laboris for the Family.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 3RD AT 530 PM