



FAITH. HOPE. CHARITY

PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL REPORT DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

TO: Active, Retired and Religious Priests

FROM: Office of the Chancellor

DATE: February 10, 2020

RE: Summary Report of the January 7, 2020 Presbyteral Council Meeting

The following topics were presented and discussed at the January 10, 2020 Presbyteral Council Meeting held at the Bishop Marshall Center.

PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

- Bishop Rozanski welcomed Revs. Jeffrey Ballou, Michael Pierz, Wayne Biernat, and Mark Mengel as new members to the Presbyteral Council. The oath of Office and Profession of Faith were submitted by each new member.

LETTER OF SUITABILITY: ONE-YEAR UPDATE ON BOSTON PROVINCE PROGRAM

- Louise Sinico- MacDonald spoke to the council about the procedure for the letters of suitability. The Boston Province includes only the priests and deacons incardinated in the dioceses of the Boston Province [Archdiocese of Boston, Dioceses of Fall River, Springfield, Worcester, Manchester, NH, Burlington, VT, and Portland, ME].
- If there is any form of public ministry outside of the diocese, a *Letter of Suitability* is needed to celebrate or concelebrate Mass, to be a presenter/speaker, to be involved in a youth program, to administer any of the sacraments.
- Each diocese is responsible for visiting clergy and should check to ensure they are in good standing.
- The process for requesting a Letter of Suitability by computer includes a fourteen-point process of questioning. Three copies of this letter are distributed. One letter goes to the diocese, one to the host pastor and one to the priest making the request.
- Louise needs 5-7 days to process a *Letter of Suitability* if the request is in the province and 10-14 days if the request for a *Letter of Suitability* is needed outside the province.

DIOCESE 150TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

Anniversary Mass

- Msgr. Christopher Connelly gave an update on the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Diocese. The main event for this celebration will be a Mass at 1:30pm in the Cathedral on *Sunday, June 14, 2020 the Feast of Corpus Christi*. Each parish will get an invitation to this event with eight seats available. The hope is that a first communicant will be present with parents from each parish. The Mass will be live streamed on Catholic Communication. After the Mass, there will be a reception in the Bishop Marshall Center.

Parish Celebrations

- Parishes are encouraged to celebrate the 150th anniversary in ways they see fit.

Diocesan Schools and Religious Education Programs

- Diocesan schools and religious education students will be encouraged to compose essays for the anniversary.

Consecration to the Sacred Heart

- A request was made to have the priests and diocese consecrated to the Sacred Heart.

Parish Pastoral Planning Guide

- Fr. Warren Savage presented a Parish Pastoral Planning Guide to be used throughout the year in parishes.

PARTNERING WITH A SISTER DIOCESE IN HAITI

- Fr. Jack Roach spoke about partnering with the Diocese of Les Cayes in Haiti. He met with Archbishop Chibley Langlois and they were interested in forming a spiritual and financial partnership with the Diocese of Springfield. Rev. Jack Roach was interested in starting a mission office that was separate from the Propagation of Faith. Financial contributions given to this cause would be electronically deposited into an account and distributed to the diocese.
- A discussion followed. No decision was reached on this proposal.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP UPDATES

Ad Limina Visit

- Bishop Rozanski reported on the Ad Limina visit. Each bishop was given a dicastery to visit. Bishop Rozanski visited the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. After a two-and-a-half-hour meeting, discussion followed. The Bishop noted a friendlier atmosphere in this visit compared to other visits in the past.

Clergy Abuse Issue

- The bishops met with Pope Francis and discussed the clergy abuse issue.

Extraordinary Form of the Mass

- Pope Francis was asked about the *Extraordinary Form of the Mass*. In each diocese, there should be one place and one time for the celebration. Some priests have celebrated this Mass during regular Mass times. They should have a scheduled Mass time so there is no confusion.

CONTINUING EDUCATION, FORMATION AND SUPPORT OF CLERGY

Clergy Day

- Fr. Savage reported that the next Clergy Day is January 21, 2020. The topic is on Addiction Treatment and Recovery. The presenters will be Don Marks, Psy.D and Erik Ranstrom, Ph.D. Dr. Don Marks serves as a professional consultant with the Saint John Vianney Center providing educational workshops to clergy and religious. Dr. Erik Ranstrom serves as a member of the Spiritual Care Department for the Saint John Vianney Center meeting with residents to discuss the spiritual aspects of their lives and ministry.

Restructuring Plan for the Deaneries

- The Deanery Draft Proposal for Review was handed out to the council for discussion at the next meeting.

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Vote on the sections of policy Manual
- Deanery Draft Proposal for review.

Bishop Rozanski closed the meeting with a prayer.