



**PRESBYTERAL COUNCIL  
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD**

*FAITH. HOPE. CHARITY*

**TO:** Active and Retired Priests, Deacons and Religious Priests

**FROM:** Office of the Chancellor

**DATE:** June 5, 2020

**RE:** Summary Report of the May 5, 2020 Presbyteral Council Meeting

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The following topics were presented and discussed at the May 5, 2020 Virtual Presbyteral Council Meeting held online.

**CLERGY POLICY MANUAL**

Fr. Malatesta reported that the policy manual was sent to members of the presbyteral council. Every suggestion made by the clergy with regard to the manual was considered and included in the manual. Further discussion on the policy manual will be postponed until next meeting.

**PERSONNEL UPDATE**

The clergy commission is working on assignments for the newly ordained. If priests are interested in working with a newly ordained priest as a mentor or pastor, they will be encouraged to reach out to Fr. Gentile or Malatesta.

**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP UPDATES**

*Convocation of Priests*

Fr. Savage asked Bishop Rozanski, the Vicars and Deans to discern postponing the Convocation. There are financial constraints and other obligations such as Baptisms, Confirmations and First Communions postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic to be celebrated in the fall. There also is a possibility of a second wave of the virus in the fall.

*Coronavirus Update*

The Church is cooperating with the state guidelines of quarantine until May 18. With special permission, Baptisms and Weddings can be celebrated as long as social distance guidelines are followed, including no more than 10 people in attendance, which would be modified if changed by the state mandates.

The Vicars and Deans will be discussing in their deaneries the guidelines for re-opening through policies brought forth by the Thomistic Institute.

#### *Coordinated Diocesan Reopening of Churches*

Bishop Rozanski feels the way dioceses have closed was uneven. All the dioceses in Massachusetts should be on the same page, because this has caused confusion among the people. We need to have a uniform way of reopening together. Massachusetts is the third highest state with infections, and when we do reopen it will not be business as usual right away. There will be a process to return in coordination with the other dioceses.

#### *Ordination Update*

The Ordination has been postponed until August 15. Bishop felt that an ordination with an empty cathedral would not be fair to the men being ordained nor to the priests. Also, there was some consideration toward the men who have their families overseas and their limitations on travel. When they do come into the United States, they would have to quarantine for 14 days.

#### *PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM (PPP)*

The Diocese participated in the Paycheck Protection Program which is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The diocese worked on this because in other dioceses there were schools that needed to participate in the paycheck protection program and did not have the staff to apply for it. The Diocese's switch to INTACC helped to get the grant. Bill LaBroad and members of the Finance Office worked hard to get this. Parishes will be notified when deposits are put into their bank accounts.

#### *Diocesan Schools Update*

Dr. Baillargeon, Superintendent of Schools, met with Bishop Rozanski. He asked if schools can work with families who will have trouble with tuition next year. Dr. Baillargeon is planning for the worst-case scenario such as schools not being able to open in the fall. There will be a graduation of all students by August 15.

#### *150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

The Mass to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the diocese will be postponed until September 27<sup>th</sup>.