Archdiocesan Pastoral Council

4 MAY 2006

How do we as an Archdiocese re-unify?
“COMMUNICATION BUILDS TRUST”

On 4 May 2006 the APC met at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Bishop Peterson Hall, Brighton for Evening Prayer and Grace. A light dinner was available in Bishop Peterson Hall Meeting Room for all in attendance and the meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m.

I. Opening Remarks: Archbishop Seán:
   a. Welcomed and thanked everybody for being in attendance.
   b. The Archbishop has put in place a Fiscal Recovery Team who will be developing corrective actions and he will be sharing a few things this evening later as it is its own agenda item.

II. Brief Summary Reports of the APC Committees, given by the Committee Chairs:
   a. Communications Committee: K. Delehanty
      1. Have not met since the last meeting
      2. New members were welcomed
      3. Two weeks from now the committee is scheduled to meet with Antonia Enrica, editor of The Pilot, the Archdiocesan Newspaper.
      4. The committee will also be meeting with BCTV over the summer
      5. The committee will update everybody at the next scheduled meeting in September
   b. Parish Life and Leadership Committee: P. Walsh
      1. Membership is insufficient and meeting attendance is scarce
      2. New members were welcomed
      3. The committee was unable to appoint a new chair given new membership.
      4. Surveys are being returned slowly, APC reps please refer your parishes to the website as the survey is electronic.
      5. Another meeting will be scheduled for over the summer so the committee can regroup
   c. Catholic Evangelization and Faith Formation Committee: A. Fennell
      1. New members were welcomed
      2. Processing all the surveys
      3. Still following up with parishes that have yet to respond.
   d. Web Team: T. Phamduy
      1. Extended an invite to new members & invited them to consider joining the team.
      2. Electronic surveys have been posted
      3. Surveys will be tallied
      4. Committees remember this is a resource available to all so let any member of the web team know how we may assist.
   e. Bicentennial - John Stewart
      1. An oral history project is being put together with priests of the Archdiocese.
      2. Interview priests at Regina Cleary given the so many years of dedicated service each bring to the project.

While much of this is still "a work in progress," an Implementation Committee has been established and is moving forward to achieve the completion of all of the recommendations accepted by Cardinal Seán. This agenda item will afford us an opportunity to look at some of the operational/structural/management changes as pertains to the pastoral life of the Archdiocese. It will also be an opportunity for us to raise areas where we would like to explore in more depth during the coming APC year.

a. Jim O’Conner and Sr. Marian Batho, CSJ
   i. Overview: Reorganize and streamline cabinet so that it’s a stronger functioning management team.
   ii. There will be personnel changes and transitions
   iii. Fr. Richard Erikson having been named Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia is effective mid June.
   iv. David W. Smith, Chancellor for the Archdiocese is retiring and Neal Finnegan is overseeing the search committee.
   v. The Archdiocese also is undertaking searches for candidates for the positions of Secretary for Institutional Advancement and Secretary for Educational Services

b. Overall budget reduction which translates to 50 positions. Not necessarily people but definitely 50 positions.

c. Seeking alternative funding versus central funding

d. When will there be a full cabinet meeting? It’s hard to run an archdiocese with limited resources. The appointment of regional bishops is important so they can be more involved with the cabinet, stay appraised of RCAB level activity and implement policies in the various regions.

e. Pastoral Care Tax is at the PPC level talk. 60% of the parishes are paying. Maybe there can be a 1.5% tax?

f. Development Plan will
   i. Help parish be better fundraisers
   ii. Some parishes don’t pay their RCAB bills
   iii. Don’t foresee taxes for parishes but must fund raise

g. Our buildings have been allowed to deteriorate, we need to do more.

h. New development office plan can work with parishes
   i. If RCAB had a tax there are those parishes that just can not pay.

j. Institute fees for use of facility management
   i. Leases, new construction, repair, audit cycle fees

k. Observation, Hospital Ministry Tax (funding)
   i. School, hospital, audit, use of facility office
   ii. Why not institute tax to realize revenue that is needed, an overall tax
   iii. Now that financial transparency in place with all parishes, they need to be accountable

l. Can parishes afford depreciation? Boston ranks 50 in the US for charitable giving?
   i. Cardinal Seán interjected and noted that there is a Stewardship Development underway which will address sacrificial giving. There’s a saying that Protestant’s tigh and Catholics tip

m. Youth Ministry is the seed to the future and there is a lot going on, YM exists, no longer paying rents.
   i. CLI is on college campus being held
   ii. Gospel Road
   iii. Habitat for Humanity - younger adults are more involved
   iv. Appears the my be the only Church goers in the family
   v. This ministry needs nurturing and any time you can spend with any one of these types of events goes a long way. The RCAB must reach out to this group and Cardinal Seán you are that outreach.
   vi. The best has been preserved.
n. How many women will be part of the implementation team? It’s an important issues because the RCAB should be modeling collaboration and woman MUST be represented it’s symbolic and it’s important.

o. Low clergy moral, isolation, frustration. Time that is being spent with the younger, newer priests should too be spent with the seasoned pastors as they are the front line.

p. Pastors with 20, 30+ years should be mentoring the younger priests as well so isolation is no longer a reality

q. YM sharing amongst parishes, Life Teen, etc. supported by many, critical Mass is important, share resources, YM regionally may strengthen RCAB as a whole

r. Young Adult Ministry, Weymouth Collaboration

s. YM currently: fundraising, selling, we’re selling Jesus, there’s a void because parishioners seem disconnected from RCAB

t. Marriage Prep + Baptism Prep = Communication, RCAB needs to do a better job

IV. General Sharing of Issues and Concerns – “What do I need to hear?” Please highlight specific issues of concern that impact the life of the Archdiocese. Please share your remarks in “bulleted” for clear and very succinct! There are many people, so as to enable as many as possible to speak in the limited time, please be considerate of these requests.

a. Kudo’s for Financial Transparency, thank you for the leadership, historic first step for the RCAB

b. We still can’t turn our backs on those that are still in the process of re-configuration., there’s hurt, anger, lack of sensitivity,

c. APC website is not user friendly

d. Parishes are disconnected with RCAB, Cardinal needs to reach out more, strong leadership needs visibility,

e. Voice of the Faithful, they too are parishioners who want to be heard, they are faith filled, the care about the Church

f. 1st Communion, allergies, we must be able to do something because even Jesus said, let the children come to me, so what we deny them the body of Christ, what can we do to alleviate those with allergies?

g. Publish homilies and rebroadcast them on BCTV

h. We need to Evangelize before we Catechize

i. Adult Education must be part of the outreach, can you go where they go, be guest speaker

j. “Salvation is Free Religion Costs Money,” Are there programs that will be discontinued? Father Coyle interjected here and noted that No Pastoral Services will be discontinued rather the plan is to implement a new paradigm, outreach to priests is increasing, mission statements are being combined, and the team will be stronger managers with skills for the task at hand.

k. Hope to have woman more visible in RCAB, CCD Programs = woman, Mass=woman, religious=more woman than men, ministry = more women than men. Very little women in Cardinal’s circle of advisors, even Jesus surrounded himself with women; in fact it was to a woman that the truth of his resurrection was revealed not a man.

l. Evangelization is missing, it is needed before fundraising, What ever happened to RENEW, to move ahead we need to go back to where we started with the basics of our faith, evangelization.

m. Adoption controversy - who are these people and why were they ignoring their Catholic teaching?

n. Adoption controversy - it’s all about the money, baby goes to the highest bidder and if they are gay it’s okay because it is the GREEN backs that count not the lifestyle. Not the way to run a Catholic Organization, we should be ashamed and those currently on the board should be relieved of their duties and new appoints should be made immediately.
V. Announcements - Father Art Coyle:
   a. Very grateful for the council this APC has extended, as well as members of the Steering Committee
   b. Fall meetings dates will be confirmed

VI. Closing Remarks: Archbishop Seán
   a. Many issues are important in merit and are in need of reflection before given a response
   b. Future agenda items will talk about some of the issues I want to thank all of you for bringing to my attention
   c. Realize religious illiteracy, religion is more media taught, Churches position may look antiquated, mean spirited, but in fact it's the truth
   d. Love of God is demanding, the world is addicted to entertainment
   e. Church position independent, parlaying rather than explained.
   f. Trying to teach our faith is the greatest challenge for all of us
   g. The generation or generations that are not properly catechized, they are ill-equipped
   h. As for the Catholic Charities Board, it's complicated, some didn't understand some of the challenges that needed to be better understood from a state perspective, intent was honorable, but again, trying to help people understand Church teachings are the biggest challenge that we must overcome as an Archdiocese
   i. Yes, evangelize people so they are closer to Christ, if we can help convert the heart first and fill it with the Lord's love then teaching is not difficult
   j. Future agenda items will include the 3 groups recently pulled together:
      i. Faith Formation Committee: after Confirmation - then what? This committee will focus on youth and young adult faith formation. APC member Suzanne Robotham has been welcomed to the committee.
      ii. Marriage Committee: Sacramental index is down, i.e. Baptisms and Marriage. This committee will focus on enrichment, preparation, and support. APC members Anne Fennell and Patricia Meuse have been welcomed to the committee.
      iii. Pastoral Planning Committee: This committee will focus their efforts on future personnel and resources. APC member Deacon Philip LaFond has been welcomed to this committee.
   k. Restructuring and reorganization will help support pastors as priests will be attending vicariate meetings, cluster meetings are also in place
   l. Currently I meet with young priest (1-5 years) every month
   m. RCAB offers training, over 100 parishes have tapped into the resources
   n. Tomorrow the $13M Annual Appeal gets kicked off, no quotas have been raised for parishes
   o. The Chancellor position should be filled soon and that will help a great deal
   p. Father Art has stepped in as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia and for that I'm extremely grateful
   q. Forthcoming there will be a Novena for Pentecost, four healing Masses to address the Sexual Abuse Crisis, 9 days from Ascension Thursday to Pentecost.
   r. Final Prayer was lead at 8:55 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, 7 September 2006.