

Archdiocese of Atlanta
Archdiocesan Pastoral Council
December 1, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Archbishop Gregory, Fr. Vic Galier, Deacon Hilliard Lee, Bruce Bley, Timothy Buckley, Susan Burroughs, Gwen-Dolyn Cutter, Barbara Golder, Joanna Griggs, S. Benjamin Houston, Carmen Madero, Sabrina Mao, Sister Margaret McAnoy IHM, Calvin Owens, Roderick Padilla, Andrew Smith, John Schiavone, Rick Stetzer, Alan Talley, Dr. Elisabeth Blanton, Dominic Faraj, Deacon Dennis Dorner

Mass was celebrated in the Catholic Center chapel.

Meeting of APC held at 600 building.

Archbishop Gregory (ABG) opened the meeting with a prayer. He expressed his appreciation for all of the many cards letters and prayers sent on his behalf during his surgery and recuperation.

Question about 680 building....ABG shared current status

Several real estate people are looking at the building but ABG doesn't anticipate anything happening until real estate market recovers

Minutes were approved from previous meeting

Eucharistic Congress (EC) Update

ABG shared that at last meeting there was a broad discussion about the EC. A number of members from the priest's council had asked questions about the EC.

ABG shared the comments from the priest's council minutes.

ABG said that any decision to continue the EC on an annual basis cannot be the decision of just the priest's council. It is the Congress for the entire Archdiocese of Atlanta.

It brings people to a new awareness For what it costs us it's a very good evangelization tool.

ABG's Summary:

The first direction is that we need more public disclosure of what the EC costs to the people of the Archdiocese.

- What it costs
- How it's paid for

Maybe in the Annual Appeal there should be a designated gift for the EC

There is a tug between the EC as a religious event...and as a financial event.

Report on the Web Site:

A new web site is under creation for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. The APC will have a page on the new site. It should be up and running by the first of 2008.

Statutes

Intent was to create a skeleton of what the Council is and how it is structured.

Comments and notations made.

Subject to those changes the statutes have been approved.

Evangelization

The challenge is how to pass on the faith? Not just to new people but even from one generation to the next.

ABG shared that one of our priests will be completing a degree in Detroit in Evangelization – Father Tim Hepburn.

How do we both invite people into the Church and keep them in the Church.

ABG: The challenge that the Church faces is not merely what we teach but how we teach it.

Final Comments:

Evangelization is a process. There is also the need for ongoing support.

Concern is that we are losing Catholics....people going outside the faith. People are becoming disenchanted with organized religion. Perhaps part of it is the loss of the spirituality but it's also the social aspect and making the people feel welcome.

The cost of Catholic education is part of the problem.

It's not just the message but it's how the message is being presented.

We need to meet people where they are and take them to Christ.

Discussed the need to pursue converts.

ABG said that the RCIA program works very well in this Archdiocese. Every year we have 1500-1800 that are coming into the Church. They come because of the one on one contact with people who are currently in the Church.

We also need to address issues about persons with disabilities. They also must be served.

Discussion continued about the “take away” from the EC?

Could small faith groups be formed?

The topic on Liturgies was tabled to the next meeting.

ABG closed the meeting with prayer.