

Priest Council Minutes
Saint John Paul II National Shrine
May 5, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Present:

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory
Rev. Emilio E. Biosca, O.F.M. Cap.
Rev. Robert P. Boxie, III
Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr.
Rev. Rory T. Conley
Most Rev. Mario E. Dorsonville
Rev. Francisco E. Aguirre
Very Rev. Daniel B. Carson
Rev. Cornelius K. Ejiogu, S.S.J.
Rev. Msgr. William J. English
Rev. William E. Foley
Rev. Mark F. Hughes

Rev. Michael J. King
Rev. Thomas G. LaHood
Very Rev. Anthony E. Lickteig
Rev. Benjamin J. Petty
Rev. Mark L. Smith
Rev. Msgr. Eddie L. Tolentino
Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi
Rev. David G. Wells
Rev. Msgr. Michael Wilson
Rev. Lawrence A. Young

Absent:

Rev. David W. Beaubien
Rev. Matthew J. Fish
Rev. Msgr. Charles E. Pope

Opening Prayer and Comments

Cardinal Gregory opened the meeting with a prayer. He then welcomed the members of the council in attendance and with a quorum being present asked Fr. Carson to begin the meeting.

Approve Minutes

Fr. Carson asked if there were any questions concerning the meeting minutes from the March 24, 2022 meeting. No questions were brought forth. The minutes of the March 24, 2022 meeting were approved.

Youth Rally and Mass for Life 2023

Dr. Jeannine Marino, Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns (PMSC) began her presentation by thanking Cardinal Gregory for the opportunity to present to the Administrative Board today on the Youth Rally and Mass for Life. She introduced Mr. Kevin Donoghue, President/Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and Ms. Kathryn Windels, Director of Life Issues who were with her to assist in her presentation as many of the aspects of the event are coordinated by CYO and Youth Ministry.

Dr. Marino indicated she would keep the presentation short since their goal was to hear feedback from the Priest Council on how ADW should continue to host the Youth Rally and Mass for Life.

Mr. Donoghue began by explaining that the archdiocese has hosted the Youth Rally and Mass for Life for over 20 years. The Youth Rally is the largest annual event in the archdiocese and is nationally and internationally recognized. The Youth Rally and Mass for Life is featured positively in Catholic Media regularly and dioceses from around the country send young people to the event.

Mr. Donoghue explained to the group that for the last 15 years the Youth Rally has been held downtown in DC at the Capital One Arena. Typically, the event begins on a Thursday evening with set up continuing overnight. The doors open at 6:15 a.m. for a pre Rally warm up with the Rally starting at 7:10 a.m. The rally concludes a few minutes before 9:00 a.m. with the Mass for Life starting at 9:00 a.m. The Mass for Life ends at 10:00 a.m. During the Mass, staff is back stage cleaning up so they can vacate the building by 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Donoghue explained that the Youth Rally and Mass for Life is the largest budgeted item in the Pastoral Ministry and Social Concern's office with a budget of just under \$250,000, and does not include staff time. The majority of this budget goes to renting the Capital One Arena. The vast majority of the 17,000 tickets go to non-ADW diocesan groups. ADW parishes and schools use only 4,000-5,000 tickets. The tickets used by ADW parishes and schools is actually up from 2,000-3,000 tickets due to efforts by the Catholic Schools office (CSO) and CYO staff to call each parish and school to encourage them to attend.

Dr. Marino provided an overview of the current Youth Rally and Mass for Life format letting the group know that the information is not easy to read but is necessary to know. ADW parishes have provided feedback that they do not believe the Youth Rally and Mass for Life is designed for ADW youth. Our parishes believe it is an event for other dioceses. Furthermore, the time and location is a hindrance for our parishes. Most of our Catholic Schools do not begin until 8:00 a.m. asking them to gather kids by 5:00 a.m. to get on the metro and get to Capital One Arena by 6:00 a.m. is not realistic. Most of our parishes choose instead to have Mass for Life shortly after the school day starts and then they head down to the Mall for the March for Life.

Dr. Marino explained that two years ago, in late 2020, when they were trying to decide if the Rally should be canceled because of COVID, Ms. Windels, Mr. Donoghue and the CYO staff placed calls to the dioceses who had signed up for tickets to gauge interest in the Youth Rally. During those calls, they asked dioceses why they attended the Youth Rally, what they liked about the Youth Rally and what would they change about it. The feedback received was:

- It is free (Arlington's Youth Rally charges \$20.00)
- It is free "babysitting" between hotel check out and when the March begins
- The Youth Rally is the same every year and does not engage the youth

Ms. Windels indicated that in addition to the feedback received, they are facing a very different legislative landscape with regards to abortion than they did 25 years ago when ADW started the Youth Rally and Mass for Life. This changing landscape means they

have to be realistic about what the goals of the Youth Rally are and how they should adapt it to reach today's youth.

Ms. Windels highlighted factors about our current legislative landscape.

1. The *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* case will determine whether it is constitutional for states like Mississippi, where this law was instituted, to ban abortion pre-viability. In other words, most conservative states already have a lot of restrictions on abortion, but this Supreme Court case would allow them to outlaw abortion. In effect, when the *Dobbs* case is heard by the conservative majority in the Supreme Court, it could effectively overturn *Roe v. Wade*. This is anticipated by almost all sources, conservative and liberal. This case was in the news again the week of this meeting with the leaking of a draft decision by the Supreme Court.
2. "Conservative" states have already begun to respond by proposing increasingly restrictive laws banning abortion (i.e. Texas' Heartbeat Bill). "Liberal" states like Maryland and the DC have already tried to pass laws to increase abortion access.
3. This year the Maryland State Legislature tried to pass an Abortion Amendment which would enshrine abortion rights into the Maryland State Constitution. This motion failed. Unfortunately another law, the Abortion Care Access Act, passed overriding Governor Hogan's veto to allow physician's assistants and nurse practitioners to perform abortions. There were a number of other bills this year that would have outlawed any restrictions on abortion, even allowing and encouraging women to perform their own abortions. These laws were dangerous toward women, and will almost certainly come up next year in the General Assembly. DC had already passed laws for full access to abortion.
4. Maryland and DC already have some of the most permissive abortion laws in the country. These will not be overturned, but will be strengthened. Current legislation, including the recently passed Abortion Care Access Act, is already expanding abortion access across the state to ensure that abortion is more accessible than authentic women's healthcare.
5. The pro-life movement has been fighting for decades to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Now that this is happening, states like Maryland will be less pro-life. Even states without legal abortion will not be abortion-free, they will just be sending more women to places like Maryland and DC.
6. The pro-life strategy of the archdiocese needs to change to focus less on advocacy and more on changing hearts and minds and actively helping women in need. They also need to adjust to the differing realities across the country. Therefore, at the Youth Rally and Mass for Life, some youth groups will live in a place where abortion is illegal, and some will live in a place where abortion is legal. The Youth Rally's focus, therefore, will need to shift to changing hearts and minds rather than energizing the youth to advocacy.

Ms. Windels asked the group to keep all of this in mind as they presented alternative Youth Rally formats for comments and feedback. She then let the group know they would present three options for alternative formats with the preface of the following caveats:

1. The Youth Rally and Mass for Life is a Central Pastoral Administration (CPA) wide event. Several offices are directly involved in preparing for the event; however, the Office of Youth Ministry, the Office of Life Issues, the PMSC Secretary and the Moderator's Office are traditionally the leads for the event.
2. Declan Weir Productions, who has assisted with the Youth Rally for many years, was still willing to partner with ADW regardless of the format chosen. Furthermore, they assured us that whatever format we choose, they will provide their services at cost.

Mr. Donoghue presented the first option, Option Blue. This option would essentially keep the Youth Rally and Mass for Life as is. There are pros and cons to this approach. The pros are that this event format is well known, it has national recognition and it is tied to the national march. The cons include that it is very time consuming to facilitate with the ADW taking on full logistical and financial responsibility as no national organizations assist ADW with the logistical or financial support. The effective impact on youth is limited and ADW parishes are underserved and inconvenienced with timing and cost to organize participation at the parish level.

Mr. Donoghue then presented the second option, Option White. This option would be a smaller Youth Rally for ADW youth with the possibility of inviting Region IV dioceses to participate. The pros to this option include the format is already mostly planned and would be easily adapted to scale down, it would still provide the traditional showing of large ADW support to the celebration and protection of life, and would allow for some flexibility in venue choices and cost savings. The cons are the event would still have time constraints that make it feel rushed and difficult to manage since it would occur on Friday morning; the costs would still be on the higher end though cheaper than the traditional Youth Rally since we could use a smaller venue; there would be more upfront man-hours required to make necessary changes; and finally costs, risks and effort may outweigh the impact.

Dr. Marino presented the third option, Option Red. This option would change the most and would be the most challenging for staff. This would be a re-envisioned model where ADW would host an interactive rally on Thursday night and then coordinated Masses by participating parishes on Friday where Cardinal Gregory would celebrate a Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral. The rally portion hosted on Thursday would be intended for ADW youth with possible regional diocesan participation. The event would provide professional entertainment, guest speakers, panel discussions, interactive game play and small group discussion. All forms of life issues and initiatives would be presented. If other dioceses were invited, we could ask Bishops from those dioceses to join our three bishops for the rally in a more interactive manner through panel discussions.

Dr. Marino explained that this re-envisioned format would have several pros to include a much larger contingency of ADW youth participation and a much more personal experience. There would be a broader choice of venue options and the time frame would be more reasonable. Also, since it would not begin in the early morning hours, costs would be significantly reduced and it would allow individuals the opportunity to attend the Youth Rally on Thursday, Mass at their parish or at St. Matthews on Friday and then attend the downtown March.

There would also be cons to include the format would need to be created from scratch. This would require more man-hours for planning and implementation in the initial year or two. We would expect push back from outside dioceses, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and national organizations. The March for Life and USCCB would certainly push back on a change of format and reducing this nationally known event to something that focuses on local youth. Finally, we do risk lower interest or complications, especially in the first year or two, as we develop this version of the Youth Rally.

Dr. Marino closed with very much wanting to hear feedback and answer any questions the group may have.

Comments included:

- It should be the largest rally we ever had.
- Keep the first option this year and maybe change later on.
- This is about the churches mission – we haven't done enough to show the world our passion.
- Our young people have only known Rode v Wade.
- This rally is for everyone who can bear children and beyond.
- It's a way to teach the divine law and the way of human life.
- We are living in an age of feelings not logic or law and struggling against feeling good and not saying no.
- The struggle is more than right for life/abortion.
- Christianity is a positive message, unfortunately we have boxed ourselves into anti-abortion instead of pro-life.
- We have to be positive about what we are saying so people see the message.
- Don't change anything this year – it will send wrong signal.
- Work on it for the future.
- There is something about having a large group together – public display of faith.
- Wait and see about the decision, but I think it would be the wrong year to do it.
- Small diocese have a hard time hosting.
- Someone who attends in various formats does get the feeling of not being personally engaged.
- As an event – seeing 50 bishops, 200 priests attend is pretty impressive and you don't get to see that often – it's beautiful.
- I do think there is a need for that personal interaction as well.
- The Rally does not need to change instead the narrative needs to change.

- Remind everyone that life does not begin or end in the womb.
- We need to teach life begins at conception.
- We need to expand narrative to include racism.
- It is beautiful when the church is in the news for something like this.
- Do the Rally but be more inclusive.
- We care about the baby in the womb but not when someone gets shot. That's a life issue.
- In the Nation's Capital – we need to be present at the Rally.
- What does it accomplish and are we accomplishing what we want?
- Add gifted people invited to speak to the youth before the Rally.
- Keep one more year to celebration goals that have been met.
- A way to notify the dioceses we are going to do it but may adjust after this year.
- Parents didn't let kids go as it was a political event so we still need to make awareness in Maryland and DC with an event where legislation speaks.
- Sign the contract for this year – work towards change.
- It is a celebration or more of a victory.
- Because we are in DC, we are where the nation comes together and we need to be present to bring people together.
- Get through to our kids that we are pro-life not just about abortion.

The question was brought up on whether we could get other dioceses to help?

Dr. Marino responded that the Diocese of Brooklyn has always made a donation. During COVID we were scheduled to charge a fee of \$5 per ticket. We could ask for support from other dioceses, and we would probably get some help, but with that we would also have to give up some control of the event along with it.

Dr. Marino also mentioned that if we went with the Red option, there would need to be a conversation with the USCCB and National March for Life to help them recognize the value and see if they would be willing to work with us. Have them take charge of some aspects of the event, as it is for the nation.

Dr. Marino let the group know that the National March for Life does not know what they are doing as of yet. We would have a signed contract by now with Capital One Arena, but they haven't made a decision, so we have been delaying ours. We do need to make a decision sooner rather than later on what we do. Capital One Arena has been very accommodating and are very gracious hosts so we do not want to keep delaying our decision.

Ms. Windels stated that the Maryland March for Life takes place in February, but we don't have a large presence.

Bishop Dorsonville thought the discussion was very good. He stated that we have to be careful in the society we live as we as the Church are called to promote unity. \$250K is a large amount to spend.

Bishop Dorsonville also mentioned we need to be cautious using the word "celebrate". Overturned will not stop what is happening in the world as people just do not care. What

are we going to do to teach the kids (12 -13) that are having sex? How do we teach them love for themselves and family? We should give thanks to God but it is still not something to celebrate.

Dr. Marino let the group know that the Diocese of Arlington has switched formats and they have more opportunities for youth to meet and talk with bishops, clergy, and college students to get that positive witness. Arlington starts the Rally on Thursday night to focus on all life issues and how they are interconnected, with the Mass on Friday morning before students head to the March. That is similar to what we were trying to go for – smaller groups with bishops and priests to have conversations with our youth. Make the connection to change hearts and minds.

Cardinal Gregory thanked the group for the dialogue and made the following points:

- If we don't take Capital One Arena, we could lose it to a kind of event where a different group of people could hijack this ministry moment of opportunity. We have to take Capitol One Arena and figure out the best kind of event to do.
- His Eminence is afraid that if our March is too exuberant, it will trigger a negative reaction that could end in a conflict on the national mall with those who are against our rejoicing. We need to be aware of that so we do not put our kids in the middle of something that could be potentially dangerous. We would not want to put kids at any kind of risk of violence/conflict. This is a real concern for His Eminence.
- I believe we have to go forward – we need to package our event in a way that expands what we are celebrating. For this coming year, we stay at Capital One Arena and after this year, we move towards redesigning the Rally and Mass.

Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach

Mrs. Wendi Williams, Executive Director, Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach, provided a presentation about the Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach (OCDO). She shared background on the formation of the OCDO in 2015 as an evolution of the ADW support and commitment to evangelization of multicultural and multi ethnic communities.

Mrs. Williams reported that the ADW parishes stand at 52% multicultural representation per the 2021 ADW statistical report. For context, she explained the approach to ADW parish census data reporting as compared to national census data and ADW school enrollment data. She shared the OCDO mission and vision statements and how they are operationalized through programs, resources and strategies that are designed to support pastors and parishes with outreach and evangelization of multicultural parishes. Mrs. Williams described the categories of focus for the OCDO: engagement, cultural celebrations, leadership formation, pastoral care for immigrants and refugees, and communications.

Mrs. Williams described the consultative process with clergy and lay leaders the OCDO is undertaking to develop a pastoral plan. She reported on plans for a special meeting

with priests and deacons that was being hosted by Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville and the OCDO on May 10, 2022. She described the needs assessment survey disseminated to pastors and deacons to support the planning process. Mrs. Williams indicated she would follow up with a report on the outcome of the planning process.

Mrs. Williams stated that the office was in the process of standing up a few new resources to support evangelization and outreach in multicultural parishes. Mrs. Williams highlighted a few examples:

- Share, Learn and Celebrate - For the celebration of certain significant events, the OCDO will deploy Share, Learn and Celebrate. The resources provided through Share, Learn and Celebrate are for the purpose of embedding multiculturalism, understanding, and value of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The resources will be made available to all parishes and schools.
- Support for Parishes with Multicultural Ministries – the OCDO will conduct meetings to provide and explore relevant content to support clergy supporting multicultural communities. Separate bi-monthly meetings will be held for clergy with a focus on Asian Pacific Islander, Black and Hispanic ministries. During the intervening months, the OCDO will conduct meetings to bring together all clergy with multicultural communities. As part of planning, the OCDO will collaborate with Secretariats, as needed, to identify and present relevant content.
- Direct Support Cohort – Three parishes will be identified each fiscal year to be provided direct support services to support multicultural ministry enhancement. Parishes will be identified through a consultative process with voluntary adoption by the pastor. The goals and objectives will be identified based on the unique needs and circumstances of each parish. The OCDO will evaluate effectiveness after year-one to determine how to proceed.

Mrs. Williams reported on the OCDO collaboration with the multicultural Catholic communities and Ecclesial Movements. She provided an overview of the various communities and movements. She described the benefits of collaboration and how it will materialize in support for our parishes and the formation of lay leaders.

Mrs. Williams described the significance of effective communication and the role OCDO has to support parishes with communications. She explained the relationship and collaboration with Communication Secretariat in this effort. She explained her vision to advise and support parishes to leverage communication tools and strategies to improve outreach efforts.

XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops: Archdiocesan Consultation

Dr. Jeannine Marino, Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns, presented an update on the Synod. She thanked the group for listening to her for a second time today! She also thanked Bishop Mario Dorsonville and Bishop Roy Campbell, Auxiliary

Bishops for the archdiocese for attending the three regional listening sessions that were held in March. We received a lot of positive feedback from clergy, religious and laity about the presence of the hierarchy at these sessions.

Dr. Marino focused on three areas for her update:

- An Overview of the current status of Archdiocesan Synod Consultation phase.
- Overview of the Conclusion of the Archdiocesan Synod
- Next steps after the Synod process

Dr. Marino let the group know that they received a very positive response to the synod consultation. As of this meeting, they had received 922 individual survey responses from laity, clergy and religious, and 104 parish summary reports. She mentioned the group should be very proud of the number of parish reports. Typically, they do not get such a large response from parishes when the CPA sends out surveys. Parishes are very engaged in this Synodal process. Also of note, they have received reports from several Catholic groups that hosted synod sessions and chose to submit some type of report to ADW. These groups included: two independent Catholic schools, an independent ecclesial community and a couple religious communities. Sr. Gilmory Kay, RSM, Archdiocesan Delegate for Consecrated Life, Fr. Carson and Dr. Marino also had private conversations with leaders of various LGBTQ Catholic organizations about the synod process though these groups have not submitted a report.

Dr. Marino shared four highlights from individual and parish reports. These are four main points in summary form that were repeated most frequently in the individual and parish reports.

1. The first highlight was the Eucharist. Our people and parishes see the Eucharist and Sunday Mass as central to their faith and believe in the true presence of the Eucharist. She pointed this out as there is a narrative that Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of the Eucharist based on one PEW study. This PEW study asked questions about the Eucharist using Protestant language. The Center for Applied Research's (CARA) studies on the Eucharist and Sunday Mass attendance show a much higher rate of belief in the Real Presence of the Eucharist. The individual and parish reports that have been received thus far show that our people believe in the Eucharist and see Mass as central to their faith.
2. Another highlight is COVID-19. COVID, while difficult, gave people a chance to refocus their priorities on their faith, families and community. COVID also allowed parishes to reassess what ministries are working, what ministries are needed and what ministries are better done by others. This was truly a case of people and parishes being resilient in the face of challenging times.
3. The third highlight was our Priests. Our people love their priests. The vast majority of individual and parish reports are positive about ADW priests. While

not every decision by the pastor was always enthusiastically supported by the parish, people know that their parish priests love them.

4. Finally, our priests and parishioners are appreciative of the parish pastoral and financial councils. They know these councils exist in our parishes and people see these councils as Synodal structures.

Dr. Marino then shared four challenges that have been raised in the individual and parish reports.

1. The first issue concerned evangelization. There was a sense of people feeling unwelcomed in our parishes. This sense of not belonging ranges from ministries feeling like a clique, to not knowing anyone in the parish, to minorities and recent immigrants feeling unwelcomed.
2. Another challenge was related to communication issues. Parishioners know that the parish pastoral and finance councils exist, but they do not know what is discussed at the meetings, who the members are, and how to contact them with questions, concerns or ideas.

Dr. Marino considered these two challenges opportunities that are relatively easy to address. The Secretariat of Communication's team has already provided more support to parishes through increased help with parish websites and flocknotes. They can easily work with parishes on best practices on how to post online information about who the members of the parish councils are, when they meet and how to contact them with questions.

Similarly the issue of evangelization was an opportunity. Dr. Marino will focus on how to address this challenge at the end of her presentation.

Dr. Marino then discussed the next two challenges, which were slightly more difficult to address. However, she did not think these challenges were surprising to anyone in the room.

3. The good news was that our parishes love and trust their local parish priests. However, our people do not trust the institutional church or bishops. Across the ecclesiology spectrum, people expressed mistrust of the hierarchy, specifically the U.S. Bishops and USCCB. People readily identified if they were "conservative" "liberal" or somewhere in the middle, and regardless of how they self-identified, they were not pleased with the U.S. Bishop or the USCCB. Dr. Marino had reached out to several colleagues in other dioceses who were overseeing their diocesan synod outreach to see if they had experienced similar reactions. They did note that people across the country expressed frustration, distrust and anger at the U.S. Bishops but they could not recall a single comment about the USCCB. Dr. Marino was not sure why the USCCB was mentioned so many times in ADW's synod consultations except that maybe it was because the Conference is located in ADW.

4. Finally, the Clergy Sexual Abuse crisis was still a challenge. This was related to the mistrust of the institutional Church. There was a deep concern about clergy sexual abuse, specifically on an ongoing cover up specifically related to former Cardinal McCarrick. There seems to be less concern about ongoing sexual abuse of children by current clergy but there was a heightened concern about an ongoing cover up by Church leaders about past abuse and adult sexual misconduct.

Dr. Marino then focused on highlights that were raised in the three Regional Listening Sessions held in March. She welcomed Bishop Campbell and Bishop Dorsonville to share their insights here as well.

The first highlight was the Eucharist. Delegates indicated that Sunday Mass is essential to the life of their parish or religious communities and that people are slowly but surely returning post COVID.

The second highlight was the Synod Process. Delegates expressed the hope and joy they felt during the synod process. They felt that parishes that engaged in the structured listening sessions benefited greatly from the sessions and parishioners wanted more listening sessions in parishes and at the archdiocesan level. Parishioners at the regional sessions were very grateful that the bishops were present for the entire time at the listening sessions, praying and listening with them.

Finally, a highlight raised in all three listening sessions was the diversity of ADW. Delegates expressed how proud they were that the archdiocese is a diverse Church that reflects the Universal Church. Delegates expressed that they were happy at how many parishes celebrate Mass in various languages, that we have numerous ethnic and multi-cultural parishes, and that the regional listening sessions brought together people from all backgrounds to discuss a variety of issues in a very prayerful and civil way.

Dr. Marino presented that the regional delegates raised four challenges.

1. The first challenge concerned youth. Delegates expressed a need for more attention on attracting and retaining youth and young adults in parishes. Delegates wanted to ensure there was a place for youth and young adults in parishes and were willing to engage in regional parish ministry in order to attract youth and young adults. At the time of this meeting, PMSC was without a coordinator for youth ministry and a program director for young adults and campus ministry. Dr. Marino was hopeful the youth ministry position would be filled shortly.
2. Another challenge that was raised by the regional delegates was Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation. Delegates expressed that parishes need to focus on evangelization and adult faith formation.
3. The other two challenges raised focused on inclusion and transparency. Delegates expressed that diversity is more than ethnic diversity and that parishes and the archdiocese needs to be more inclusive of all people including the divorced and

remarried, LGBTQ Catholics, youth, the disabled, the elderly, and former Catholics. The comments about inclusion went beyond welcoming people. The delegates did not want to just welcome people to Sunday Mass but rather wanted to make parishes places where ethnic communities and people on the margins feel truly included in the life of the parish.

4. The final challenge raised centered on Transparency and Accountability. Delegates expressed that the archdiocese needed to be more transparent in how decisions were made, that more listening sessions were needed to bring together clergy, religious and laity; that problems in parishes need to be dealt with quickly by the archdiocese and that the Bishops and CPA staff need to spend more time visiting parishes to listen to the needs of the parish.

Dr. Marino then discussed the conclusion of ADW's synod process. Each diocese is required to submit a 10-page diocesan report to the USCCB with a due date of June 30.

The Holy See has provided guidance about the content of the 10-page report in Appendix D of the September 2021 *Vademecum* and in a brief memo to bishops. Appendix D of the *Vademecum* provides six themes they would like each diocese to provide feedback on in the 10-page report. These themes were the questions used in the regional synod listening sessions.

In addition to providing the content that must be in the 10-page report, the Synod of Bishops has provided a format and structure that each report is to follow. The archdiocese will provide a short introduction and conclusion with a longer synthesis and can submit optional appendices. Once a completed report has been drafted, it will be shared with the priest council, archdiocesan pastoral council, and senior staff for comments and recommendations. The report will be finalized by June 15 so it can be formatted, laid out and designed before submission on June 30.

Dr. Marino indicated that she and Ms. Deborah McDonald, Assistant Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns, have begun a very basic draft of ADW's report due to the tight timeline. It will not be finished until after the final listening session on May 14, 2022. However, they have started the section on the *Vademecum*'s first theme since this theme asks each diocese to describe the process they used for the Synod, and to describe the materials used for collecting feedback. They have not drafted anything more than that as of this meeting.

Dr. Marino let the group know that the report will need to be finalized by June 13 so it can be submitted to Ms. Paula Gywnn Grant, Secretary for Communications, and team by June 15. Paula and her team will need those last two weeks in June to design, format and layout the final report for submission on June 30.

They will ensure that the final report will be publically available for all to read as Cardinal Gregory has requested since the beginning of this process.

Dr. Marino indicated that based on the feedback thus far from individuals, parishes and three out of the four regional listening sessions, several pastoral activities are recommended once we conclude the synod process. The pastoral activities are:

- Increased focus on evangelization and parish pastoral planning. Last month Ms. Adrienne Willich, Executive Director of Parish and School Financial Operations, presented to you ways to increase offertory and financial stability of your parishes. If we want to ensure that our parishes are financially stable, we must, as you all know better than I, start with evangelization and creating vibrant parishes.
- Increased focus on youth and inclusion
- Reorientation of CPA offices and ministries that focus on supporting parishes rather than large archdiocesan events that pull people away from parishes. PMSC knows that they have historically planned large archdiocesan events that pull people away from parishes rather than invite people back to parish life.
- More opportunities for regional gatherings of parish communities to learn best practices in ministry and share ideas with each other.

Dr. Marino thanked everyone for their time and concluded her presentation.

Closing Comments

Cardinal Gregory thanked the presenters and closed the meeting in prayer.

Next Meeting

October 6, 2022