

Meeting Minutes  
**St. Sebastian/St. Vincent Social Justice Ministry**  
Sunday, October 23, 2022

Members Present: Mike Benzie, Annie Burris, Larry Furman, Bernie Rochford, Rita Rochford, Dave Tschantz, Mary Tschantz

Prayer: Mary offered “A Prayer for this Election Season” by Dianna Ortiz, OSU former Pax Christi USA Deputy Director

General Session: Dave led the discussion of Pope Francis’ *Praedicate Evangelium* Dicasteries, Articles 53-174, covering the responsibilities and areas of authority for 16 different Dicasteries of the Church, Articles 53-188:

1. Sympathy for the Pope was expressed at the outset of the discussion...his desire to be pastoral, yet saddled with this bureaucracy! Larry wondered why common sense is so uncommon!
2. One goal of this document is the restructuring of the Curia making its operations more transparent and responsive to the world today.
3. The structure of the document as it dealt with each dicastery was similar:
  - a. The opening article outlines the fundamental responsibility or tasks of the dicastery.
  - b. If needed the dicastery is then broken down into sections of responsibility or competency.
  - c. This is then followed by a description of the various listed tasks.
  - d. Some descriptions note that, while executing a given competency, some tasks must be done in concert or with the approval of other particular dicasteries.
4. Many of the dicasteries focus on areas of competences of governance in the Church are not directly associated with Social Justice concerns or participation of the laity. Consequently discussion focused on three dicasteries.
5. Dicastery for the Laity, the Family, and Life
  - a. The Dicastery is focused on enhancing the role of the Church in these three areas with respect to the Church’s mission according to God’s plan. Special note was made regarding its competence to the elderly and the “promotion and protection of life”.
  - b. This Dicastery as well as others are directed to operate in concert with or respecting “continental groupings” or cultures.
  - c. This Dicastery is responsible for working with young people which has been a priority of this Pope.
  - d. The document articles breakdown the responsibilities of the Dicastery in articles dealing with each topic.
  - e. It was noted that, at different points, Article 141.2, that this dicastery is directed to work with a specific department or group within the Church. A lot of bureaucracy in a large organization. This restructuring of the Curia operations is no small undertaking.
6. Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity
  - a. This Dicastery is tasked with promoting initiatives and activities to promote unity within the Church and in relation to other Churches and Ecclesial Communities.
  - b. This Dicastery shall implement the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.
  - c. Regarding item 2d above, this Dicastery must work directly with the Pope for some issues within its competency.
7. Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
  - a. This Dicastery is most directly related to the issues of social justice.
  - b. Each article highlights responsibilities for economic, environmental, war, immigration, poverty and people who are poor, and healthcare.
  - c. It was noted to specifically call out pharmaceuticals regarding priorities and research in diseases in poorer countries in the world. (Article 171)
  - d. There are multiple references to other departments or groups that this Dicastery will work with or advise on their work in areas of social justice.

Minutes: The Minutes for September were approved; they will be placed on file and made available for distribution to the parishes’ websites.

Catholic Commission:

1. The Bishop Cosgrove dinner will be held Friday, November 18 starting at 6PM at Our Lady of Cedars, 507 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd. Mary will check with Jeff Campbell because invitations have not yet been received by ministry members.

St. Vincent:

1. The Oct. 5 talk, co-sponsored by the Catholic Commission was discussed. Mary offered to forward to Rita to share with Deacon Adair NETWORK's talking points on their "Equally Sacred" campaign regarding our obligation to look at candidates' stands on all issues. It was felt the presenter could have responded better to Deacon's question about single-issue voters and the death penalty, especially in light of the clear language in the official Catechism of the Catholic Church. Carolyn had forwarded Bernie Smith's remarks at another Death Penalty forum held in October, and those who had read them commended them to others.
2. A community fair was held last Saturday from 3-7PM for parishioners and the neighborhood on community resources. Organizations like Salvation Army and the International Institute were represented. A "trunk or treat" was held for kids.
3. Saturday October 29 the parish is holding an all-day Retreat.

St. Sebastian:

1. The synodal process was briefly discussed, with the recent report from Rome that the Pope was extending the discussion looking for more input.

Announcements:

1. Nov 4 - First Friday Club –Kate Valentine, Author, Environmental Advocate, Founder of NEO Leap. *Living Laudato Si': Putting Your Faith into Action*. Doors open at 11AM. Our Lady of Cedars, 507 S. Cleveland-Massillon Rd, Fairlawn 44333.
2. Camp Christopher is having a Fall Festival.
3. CYO is looking for site director (paid) positions to be filled.

Next meeting: **Sunday, November 13th**, in St. Sebastian's Byrider Hall following the 9AM liturgy. Larry will lead discussion of Pope Francis' *Praedicate Evangelium* Articles 175-250 to finish the document.

November Prayer/Treat: Annie

Minutes prepared by Mary Tschantz