

... and Justice for All
Sunday, May 18, 2014

Present: Mary Yanko; Mary Tschantz; Carolyn Varner; Annie Burris; Greg Sain; Hank Hudson; Harry and Linda Skeen; Rita Rochford; Larry Furman; Jack and Jan Pierson. After the meeting was convened at approximately 10:10, minutes of the April meeting were approved as distributed.

General Session

Mary Tschantz led the discussion of Chapter Two of the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Joy of the Gospel, paragraphs 62 to the end. She spoke from a detailed printed summary of the chapter. Highlights of the ensuing discussion:

- a balance is needed between “administrative” and “pastoral” approaches to parish life (¶63);
- the importance of stressing critical thinking in moral discernment (¶64);
- the importance of nurturing interpersonal relationships (¶67);
- in contrast to the emphasis on individualism in the U.S. and England, other societies (such as Sweden) emphasize the need to cooperate in pursuing the common good;
- St. Sebastian needs to improve being a welcoming and inclusive parish, including common worship with neighboring churches such as St. Paul’s Episcopal Church;
- “embrace the challenge” is the theme underlying much of Chapter Two;
- pastoral workers need to focus on authentic encounters with the people with “missionary enthusiasm” (¶80);
- offering a Latin mass illustrates Pope Francis’ concern about “ostentatious preoccupation for the liturgy” instead of the mass being an occasion for meaningful interaction with others (¶95); and
- Christian communities need to enhance reconciliation rather than division (¶100).

Ongoing Projects

Mary T. described the upcoming presentations at Faith Lodge listed on the agenda for today’s meeting.

New Business

Parish networking: Mary T. said discussion at the parish networking event was fruitful. It was noted that social justice concerns are not important to most pastors.

Books: Jack said that Robert Reich, in Beyond Outrage, has insightful comments about social justice in the U.S. economy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned approximately at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Pierson