

DIOCESE OF COVINGTON

Deanery Pastoral Council Convocation Executive Summary (1-19-08)

The Diocesan Deanery Pastoral Councils met in Convocation on Saturday, January 19, 2008, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, presided over by the Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D. Sr. Suzanne Donovan, SC, Director of Human Resources for the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware and consultant for the Diocesan Synod, facilitated the meeting. Members of the five Deanery Pastoral Councils and the Diocesan Curia were in attendance.

The meeting opened with prayer led by Rev. Ryan Maher. The Most Reverend Roger J. Foys welcomed members and thanked them for their participation in the process to implement the policies of the Diocesan Synod. Sr. Suzanne briefly reviewed the Synod and discussed the process by which the policies would be implemented in the Diocese.

Sr. Suzanne reminded council members the goal of the planning process is to implement the policies of the Diocesan Synod. Members of the Diocesan Curia presented the *Diocesan Annual Plan 2008-2009* and the rationale behind each objective. Council members asked clarifying questions in preparation for presenting the plan to their respective parish pastoral councils for discussion.

Parish pastoral councils are asked to affirm or not affirm the direction proposed in the *Diocesan Annual Plan 2008-2009*. Sr. Suzanne reminded members this is not a time to amend the Synod documents as the policies are particular law in the Diocese.

Deanery Pastoral Council members are to begin the conversation in their respective parish pastoral councils by making copies of the *Diocesan Annual Plan 2008-2009* and *Rationale Statements* available to each member of the parish pastoral council prior to meeting to discuss the proposed plan. The *Diocesan Annual Plan 2008-2009* and *Rationale Statements* are available on line at <http://home.catholicweb.com/covingtonplanning/index.cfm>.

When presenting the plan to their respective parish pastoral councils, Deanery Pastoral Council representatives are asked to give an overview of the different sections of the plan, and briefly explain the intent behind the objectives, *i.e.*, this is how the Diocesan Offices propose to implement the Synod policies in the Diocese of Covington in 2008-2009 and why. Following discussion parish pastoral councils members will be asked to affirm or not affirm the direction proposed by the *Diocesan Annual Plan 2008-2009*.

When members of the parish pastoral councils choose not to affirm an objective, the Deanery Pastoral Council representatives are to note their reasons and comments. Deanery Pastoral Council representatives will take this information back to their respective Deanery Pastoral Council meetings for discussion.

Each Deanery prepares *one* report to submit to the Diocese by March 30, 2008. The reports are to include the number of Deanery Pastoral Council members who affirm and the number who do not affirm each objective and include the reasons why the objective is not affirmed. The Deanery report should also include any comments Deanery Pastoral Council members choose to share with the Diocesan Curia concerning the implementation plan. The Diocesan Curia will review the Councils' input and either incorporate their suggestions into the plan or provide a written response as to why it is not possible to do so at this time.

While the policies of the Synod are normative in the Diocese, the process for implementation proposed by the Curia is pastoral and subject to change.

Timeline

January 20 through February 2008
Parish Pastoral Councils review the plan

By March 20, 2008
Deanery Pastoral Councils review the plan and prepare one report per Deanery

By March 30, 2008
Report from each Deanery Pastoral Council is received by the Diocesan Office of Pastoral Planning and Research

The Convocation closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

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