

# Notes from ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**JANUARY 2, 2020**

Host: COB                      Facilitator: Mother Kae Madden   Scribe: Jane Reina (MOM)

Guests: John Immele and Chuck Howard with the Polity Team

Note: Due to late arrival last meeting of MOM, Jane is scribing as Mother Kae did for Jane at last meeting.

## **Opening prayer/Regional Prayer**

Holy One, sweet Guide

Reveal Your will; our new "yes"  
together. Amen.

## **Regular Business**

1. Introduction and Welcome of guests (above).

2. Theme for gratitude: Emanuel encountered this season:

Chuck experienced the Incarnation the week before with a great granddaughter, "a perfect ballerina." Her mother is Catholic, her father Jewish so at dinner, Abby thought what she might get for Christmas, and if not then she guessed that she could have it for Hanukah

Jane served at Faith and Family Hospitality at Church of Christ in Fort Collins.

Fr. Jim experienced the Incarnation through the daily Advent morning meditations with Fr. Teri. He narrated that this allowed him to focus on the Light. Also, he had a birthday celebration with 22 children and grand-children present with Emanuel Lighting the way.

Rosean: This is MoM's first Christmas without Fr. Jim. Joyfully, Emmanuel showed up through the theme of "empty out in order to receive." Each week we had a different person give their own reflection on the theme, and "God came."

Jack: Fr. Teri offered an online retreat and shared a poem of her creation. Jack is thankful for time after Christmas Eve Mass and got a chance to talk to Peter Dierks, Jack's lab professor years ago.

Teri: Offered a Gratitude Jar on her kitchen table. All year her family wrote something they were grateful for and placed it in the jar. On New Year's Eve they opened the jar. Their 5 children were full of anticipation to read the 'Gratitude's,' one child even used it as a confessional, knowing she would be safe. Young people are gravitating this type of activity to connect with family and joy.

Mike: Dec. 19 was the official council meeting and feeling like leaving Holy Family. God said to go forward into the future. Mass was beautiful with 45 people attending. I asked for help and "God showed up."

Michael: Epiphany – back to Breviary 1st Sunday of the 1st week over and over again. Prayed in front of icon of Madonna of the Tear and yet again something new was revealed through that drawing that I hadn't put into it. It was a wonderful experience.

Greg: Finished kitchen remodeling. For 6 weeks, pressure from Call Committee work and pressure from kitchen being undone. Family arrived for Christmas: son and grandson, 3 girls and a newborn, all from Texas and Phoenix. House is then quiet until Michelle wanted an impromptu New Eve's party. So, back to work...and when can I retire. Peaks, noise, quiet, people, stirring

color into something and it changes with stirring.

3. Approval of the December 2019 notes:

Fr. Jim requested notes, minutes, agenda. No objection. Approved.

December 2019 notes approved.

4. **Financial Report**

Financial report was summarized by Greg Yonker. Tithing is \$3,150.68. This was sent to office of presiding bishop. See report previously sent.

Comment from Fr. Teri: Does it make sense to offer the pins at Synod where the idea originated was floated?

5. **Vicar Report** (highlights; full report in Appendix A)

Bishop Frank and Bishop Rafe's offering of a seminar: Old Catholic Church and Theology. It is set to begin on Jan. 28. Please let Michael know if someone's name is to be added to those registered.

Colorado Remembers MLK, Jr. on January 12. Michael is representing the Colorado Council of Churches (CCC). There will be a table for ECC and CCC. All clergy got individualized letters.

Bishop Frank is marveling how we do everything collaboratively and is holding us up as a model.

## **New Business**

1. Polity and Call – The process was reviewed, with clarity of questions and concerns, Chuck replies that we are not stuck with all that we have done, except for one word, ballot needs, and criteria for actual selections. Chuck comments that we nailed a lot of changes at our meeting tonight. Remains: Article 4, Section 1 “How do you actually call a bishop.” Open to suggestions from the Call Team only.

Greg: Wind up on Wednesday and come up with a voting process. Polity team felt they had enough feedback.

Chuck thinks we are there. The Dec. 16 draft is the latest and we are awaiting answers from Call Committee, a letter for nominations, and ‘Ministry/Job’ language on descriptor of Bishops’ function.

Teri: Where is language that allows the bishop to change the polity document? What was the resolution?

Chuck: This is in the Calling the Bishop document #1, and then a document that speaks to this as a procedure. Bishop does not have the ability to change polity at any time except by amendment.

### **Next steps:**

- Are the teams well informed? All have received the steps because. Chuck saw this today. Call Committee document is close enough and we can use this on Feb. 4. No other questions about the next process steps.

- Response to December Polity document was sent to polity and call teams only as a working copy. Chuck, Michael, and Greg will work together to bring the Call Committee material out to both teams; Michael recommends that we need to articulate what needs to be done in calling a Bishop so that the new committee has something to refer to.
- Discussion: What is beyond the scope and the energy needs to be picked up to continue the work. Teams are exhausted and losing interest.
- Discussion on what the original intent and is it appropriate for the Council to pick it up from the communities. Greg – let the Call Team finish with the call requirements and then write up the vetting etc. Mike -- we need a different committee to vet and set up voting. Chuck -- spoke to the Polity Team and will need to have someone from that team, either John or Chuck, to facilitate/discern the communities' input.
- Michael: At the beginning, the direction of the RMRC, each person has a vote within their community
  - Comment by Fr. Teri: There is one fishbowl
  - Discussion: Call Committee will determine on Saturday and then that will be discussed, keeping in mind the 3 legged stool. Weighted ballots are not approved.
  - Chuck: What does this ballot look like e.g. if only 3 people respond to the call or there are only 3 people? Is there room for a 'no vote?' This allows for more than one round of voting.
  - Fr. Teri: To allow for all to vote, we need a 'no vote.'
  - Michael: How was Bishop Kedda affirmed, as an example?
  - Mike: I like 'not at this time' but also wants an attainable bar. How do we make it a high percentage of affirmation, with the option of a second ballot to get at 75%.
  - Greg: I support 'Not at this time' on the 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot but not the first.
  - Chuck: Affirmation of the documents does not answer if people actually want to call a bishop.
- Fr. Teri: This is the question 'Should we call a bishop at this time?' Unless there is only one person to vote for.
  - Mike: wants that left in.
  - Greg: Can 'we affirm these documents' and 'should we process with the election' and should it be for other than 6 years.
  - Fr. Teri: We only asked to look at the process but now that we have a good process we can present it.
  - Michael: Recalled wording of initial vote, that should we call a bishop in 2019.
  - Chuck: However, we will not proceed without these documents being approved.
  - Michael: As a matter of sensitivity, why not affirm documents AND moving forward with a Call?
  - Chuck: Agreed.
  - Jack: Recommended "don't ask if you don't like the answer."
  - Chuck: If there has to be full transparency, we have to ask it.
  - Fr. Teri: The regional newsletter confirms that we have to ask again.
  - Mike: I want 75% with a 'No' available on the ballot. Highest person needs 75% on the second ballot with a NO available. If we get a 'No' as winner, we wait a year. Discussion

of term, 4 vs 6. Michael: presented that because this is a relationship building effort, we need 6 years.

- Chuck: Episcopal Council within the ECC asked what the rules are around the bishop's authority and it has been determined. If we haven't defined something distinctively different than the Roman church, then we would follow the Roman Church. Our ECC tradition evolved from a combination of church models: 1) Jim Ferris more Roman than other; 2) Bishop Rafe from the Old Catholics, 3) Rocky Mountain Region extreme total equality between clergy and laity. Do they contradict each other? "Which are we?"
- George Von Stamwitz asks that we go as close as we can to clergy and laity equality (no ontological distinctions). Our polity is at the extreme of the basis. Radical equality is what this Region is going to be. How do we do this radical equality when we have pressures to be Roman or Episcopalian? We are creating and defining what is different.
- Michael: The ballots are 75% in one fishbowl, with 3 ballots (if no ballot gets 75%, and second and third result is the same, this gives us the answer as "not at this time." We can have a time of discernment with time to learn more about the candidates, and then vote again.
- This ended the questions and Greg and Chuck are ok.
  
- Fr. Teri to Chuck: Do you have enough money for process and education expenses?
- Chuck: If we need each community to make their own copies, then we don't need money. We need 16 copies to cover both teams, then color coding added adds much more money.
- Greg: I support reimbursing out of pocket costs. There have not been very many expenses. Michael: Do we need to budget more money for printing for communities?
- Chuck: Not if the communities print their own copies.
- Fr. Teri: can we email the documents and leave it up to the recipient to print?
- Fr. Teri: I submit that we reimburse oops for printing for the teams. Agreed to ask the teams for need to reimburse.
- Teams: Agreed

2. Recorded: Number of members for region is 400.
3. Regional contribution to a Bishop visit (see Appendix 1 from last months' notes).
4. Greg sent \$300 to CCC donation on behalf of the Vicar, Board Member.
5. Community Reports: Reserved for next meeting as we ran out of time.
6. Closing Prayer

Hosts for following meetings: Feb 6, CHF; March 5, LOC; April 2, SP.

Request: As host, please send out agenda; have a facilitator and scribe, bring opening and closing prayer, the consensus policy; some snacks to share. Send notes in a timely fashion.

Meeting adjourned promptly at 8:30pm.

## Appendix A—Vicar Report for RMRC 01 02 2020

### FORMATION/RECEPTION

Sought clarification from OPB re status of ordination candidates.

#### Old Catholic Zoom Seminar

- 4th Tuesday Zoom Seminar begins January 28th.
- Suggest 7:30-9pm CST; 6:30-8pm MST; 5:30-7pm PST.
- To date 9 participants from RMR, 1 from PNW, 3 from SW (plus +Francis, +Rafe and +Kedda). To date 9 participants from RMR, 5 from PNW, 3 from SW (plus +Francis, +Rafe and maybe +Kedda).  
The following registered participants from our region are for Council/Pastor review; the names will be omitted in the published report: Fr. Michael, Fr. Teri, Annie Hayes, Dennis, Dcn. Rosean, Jane, Jim Berry, Mthr. Kae, Alice and tentatively Katie Lacz
- Alice has volunteered to host the Zoom conference.
- Will begin with selected chapters in Pluger's CELEBRATING CHURCH (pdf), focusing on Old Catholic views on presiding, apostolic succession, et al.

### REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Presided at MoM 12/15 and 12/24.

Populated regional Facebook page @coloradoecc and augmented Instagram and Twitter presence.

Sent invitations to ECC clergy and communities for MLK event (below). **Please RSVP.**

#### COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES Board meeting 12/18

- CCC Secretary volunteered to also be Treasurer for balance of term.
- Temporary hires for Voices of Justice coordinator and Census Grant project coordinator.
- Judicators to review/rework CCC public policy position statements and work on resource collaboration survey.
- Possible grants: Soul Shop® Youth program training and retreats; on aging; on health equity.
- Vicar representing CCC on planning committee with Aurora Community of Faith and other partners for the *Colorado Remembers Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Service* at 3pm Sunday, January 12, 2020 to be held at Heritage Christian Center, 14401 E. Exposition Ave, Aurora CO 80012.

#### BISHOPS/VICARS CALL 12/18/19 +Francis, Fr. Henry, Fr. Michael (notes)

#### Psychological Evaluations

- Bishop Francis requesting simplification of Psychological Evaluation reporting for Candidate Evaluation Teams, to include a short summary while honoring privacy, stating "recommendation," i.e., suitability for ordination, or not (which would identify concerns).
- Any testing includes 3 essentials: MMPI, a personality test (e.g., 16 Personality Factors), and a full psychological interview.
- +Francis will send out email to Vicars on policy after getting some clarification from Psychological Testers.

#### Regional Reports

- **East Coast:** limited participation on regional phone call this month due to illnesses and conflicts

- **RMR:** • Progress on calling a local bishop paused to develop more fully the draft polity so that communities are aware of system before making nominations; Polity Team and Bishop Call Committee to coordinate their documents before dissemination. **+Francis marvels at how doing everything communally is second nature to the Region.**
  - Colorado Council of Churches Judicators planning to map their respective communities in proximity to others' for resource sharing and possible development of ecumenical centers.
  - Vicar Michael will be representing the CCC at Aurora/Denver Interfaith Service kicking off week of MLK celebrations.