

Notes from 12/15/18 Meeting of Increased Involvement from Laity/Women Group

Reports from the four sub-groups:

1. Canon Law and the Laity
 - How can we have greater roles in the Diocese consistent with Canon Law?
 - What are best practices?
 - Can we influence changes with new bishops/pastors?
 - Can we appoint lay representatives to the vicariate?
2. Dallas Charter
 - Outlines the structure currently operating
 - Two trustees to oversee annual expenditures and sign off on annual report.
 - Financial committee to advise the pastor.
 - Parish Council to cooperate with the pastor on parish activities.
 - Voluntary and employed positions (receptionist, sacristans, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, altar servers, grievance committee, ushers, collection counters, music director, choir director and members, special lectures and programs, special liturgies and events.
 - Parish school positions (principal, faculty, etc.)
 - Outlines rights the laity already have
 - Offer opinions
 - Be informed and consulted on major decisions
 - Limited preaching
 - Teach
 - Limited ability to preside
 - Lay administrator duties, but with pastoral oversight
 - Nothing exists at the Diocesan level
 - Virtus requirement for volunteers
 - No mandatory reporting requirements for abuse cases for parish officials in New York State.
3. Communications
 - Need role definition; is the work limited to this workgroup, or the broader MRT?
 - Target audience is the laity, not the Diocese
 - Messages must be simple and action-oriented
 - Message medium will be different depending upon the market
 - Target markets include active movement Catholics, grass roots “in the pews” parishioners, top donors, parents, young people, disenfranchised Catholics.
4. Vatican II--Two core dogmatic constitutions
 - “Light of all nations”
 - Church is the people of God
 - All are called to holiness
 - All are called to ministry
 - “Divine Revelation”
 - One Source of Revelation

- God is personal and speaks the Word through Jesus
- Opens the way for study and dialog with non-Christian people

Next meeting: January 12, 2019, 10 am-noon, St, Michael's