



ECC Episcopal Council Meeting

ECC Bishops Retreat March 18-22 2019

Chicago, IL

Present for the retreat: Bishop Francis Krebs, Bishop Rafe Adams, Bishop Kedda Keough, Bishop Denise Donato, Bishop Armando Leyva

Topics addressed during the week:

- I. Ecclesiology
 - A. Bishop Rafe shared a first draft of an ECC ecclesiology that he is working on. There was rich discussion on the document and the bishops will continue to revise and clarify this document. This is an ongoing work in progress.
 - B. There was also a desire to have a regular open forum discussing Old Catholic ecclesiology for anyone who is interested in learning more.
- II. Catholic identity
 - A. There were rich conversations about what it means to be Catholic, our understanding of the Eucharist, and Old Catholic theology. There was a question about Old Catholic understanding of transubstantiation that Bishop Francis will follow up with Fr. Peter Ben Smit for clarification. ⁱ
 - B. There was conversation around inclusivity as our central charism in the ECC.
 - C. This also led to conversation on the inclusivity of the Eucharist in ECC churches. Some local churches say everyone is welcome, no exceptions, and others say all baptized Christians are welcome. This needs further development. We want to extend welcome to all and explain theological understanding of what we are inviting people to.
 - D. There was a desire expressed among the bishops to share more about our Catholic identity. Maybe there could be an ongoing education class. Bishop Francis could write about this in the Newsletter. Main ideas: clergy (deacon, priest, bishop), liturgy, ecumenical councils and Creeds, core beliefs of Christianity. Our understanding of "Catholic" similar to being "Ecumenical," i.e. to go back to a time when there was agreement and unity, to root ourselves in what united the global Church in the first Millennium while still being open to the times in which we live.

Agreements made by the Episcopal Council:

- I. Diaconal candidates
 - There was agreement that all candidates for the permanent diaconate need to take the Diaconate 101 Course created by Bishop Rafe.



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- II. Processing candidates for ordination/incardination
 - All candidates for ordination or incardination should be sending all their materials to their local ordinary.
- III. Chrism Masses
 - Chrism Masses should only include ECC clergy or clergy candidates, not outside clergy from other churches/denominations because of the nature of this special occasion: it emphasizes the unity of the bishop and the clergy of the local church (diocese). However, consecrated oils can be shared with other independent clergy in need after the service.
- IV. Episcopal Council Meetings
 - There is not enough time to discuss important matters for one hour once a month together. In the future we will block two hours for the EC calls, and maybe have a special (longer) session quarterly as well.

ⁱ Peter Ben Smit is the head of the Old Catholic seminary in Utrecht. He responded to Bishop Francis: “Old Catholics would believe that [which] the specific doctrine of the transubstantiation wants to describe, i.e., a ‘very real’ form of Christ’s presence, also in the elements of bread and wine, yet does not typically use the Thomistic/Aristotelian model of ‘transsubstantiation’ to describe it.

April 15, 2019

Present on call: Bishop Kedda Keough, Jennifer Reyes Lay, Bishop Francis Krebs, Bishop Denise Donato, Bishop Rafe Adams

Opening Scripture/Prayer: Reading from Ephesians 3 by Bishop Francis, prayer offered by Bishop Denise

Agenda

- I. Follow ups to the Episcopal retreat
 - A. Diaconal candidates

In the retreat it was discussed that diaconal candidates need to complete the diaconate symposium as part of their ordination requirements. In the past this has been 12-14 sessions. Bishop Denise is also in touch with Rev. Diane Smith about diaconal candidates in St. Cyprian classes.
 - B. Bishop Francis spoke with Fr. Peter Ben about a question of interpretation in an Old Catholic document on the real presence of the Eucharist. He sent back a short, concise response that seemed acceptable to all bishops.



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- C. There was discussion about clergy faculties and if there needs to be ongoing requirements, expectations to maintain/renew faculties, maybe setting time limits. Bishop Armando mentioned he had some thoughts to share but couldn't attend this meeting so this will be addressed in the next meeting.
 - D. Bishop Francis will send his notes to Jennifer to go over and edit into a more official summary of the retreat.
- II. Pacific NW
- A. Bishop Kedda gave updates about some recent challenges in the Pacific NW.
 - B. There was discussion about education on the role of the deacon within the life of the faith community and their particular charism/vocation in an authentic and meaningful way. This could be a topic for the liturgical advisory committee and also an ongoing conversation with the diaconal symposium. There was also a conversation among the bishops about ordination and consecration of the Eucharist in respect to the different roles of deacons, priests, and laity.
 - C. Terri McKenzie was ordained a deacon March 24th at Emmaus with a live stream for those in Spokane to watch. They are planning her ordination to priesthood on May 4th. She is a member of St. Clare ECC in Spokane.
 - D. Bishop Kedda brought up that it would have been helpful to have an onboarding packet about what it means to be a diocesan bishop and hopes the next elected bishop will have something like that. What needs to happen to update clergy faculties once there is a local bishop? Current practice has not put time limits on faculties but that would be a good idea going forward and is an ongoing conversation about faculties and responsibilities.
- III. RCWP Episcopal Consecration
- A. Bishop Denise was asked to co-consecrate a candidate for bishop in the RCWP. The agreement was this would not be the right time because there is no clear understanding or agreement about the relationship between the ECC and RCWP so that needs to happen first. She can still certainly attend to support, just not lay on hands.
 - B. Bishop Denise will follow back up with RCWP to begin this dialogue about clarifying the relationship.
- IV. Update on Independent Catholic Bishops meeting
- A. Bishop Francis shared the ecumenical officer for the Episcopal Church (Rev. Margaret Rose) and Bishop Mike Klusmeyer (liaison to Old Catholic Church in Utrecht) will both be present for the meeting.
 - B. Dates set for October 21-23, 2019 in St. Louis, MO.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2019