



Bishops discuss religious liberty, marriage, finances at annual meeting

BALTIMORE (CNS)—At the start of their annual three-day fall assembly in Baltimore, the U.S. bishops were urged to restore the luster, credibility and beauty of the Catholic Church in the hearts of its members.

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York called on his fellow bishops on Nov. 14 to communicate to the world that the sinfulness of the Church's members is not "a reason to dismiss the Church or her eternal truths, but to embrace her all the more."

In his first presidential address since his election as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops last November, he opened and closed with the words: "Love for Jesus and his Church must be the passion of our lives."

He noted that the Church still has plenty to say to the modern world.

"She dares the world ... to foster and protect the inviolable dignity of the human person and human life, ... to protect marriage and family, to embrace those suffering and struggling, to prefer service to selfishness, and never, ever to stifle the liberty to quench the deep-down thirst for the divine."

Archbishop Dolan later pointed out that he was encouraged by a Nov. 8 private meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House.

He said he found the president to be "very open to the sensitivities" of the Catholic Church in the U.S. on issues related to religious freedom that they discussed. He said the current issues related to religious liberty and government might be an area where there is room for compromise.

Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the new Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, outlined some of the issues at stake in a report to the bishops.

He said several situations involving Church and government are related to policies of the Department of Health and Human Services.

They include draft HHS regulations that
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Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan

'I see her everywhere'



After the death of her mother, Kate Duffy Sim left her 32-year teaching career to focus her talents on painting images of the Blessed Mother. Here, she displays a painting of Mary pregnant with Jesus, a painting she titled "The Ark of the New Covenant."

Blessed Mother plays key role in woman's journey to embrace the Catholic faith

By John Shaughnessy

For days, she stayed by the side of her dying mother, trying to make the most of the time they still had together, trying to let her mother know that their bond as parent and child would always endure.

As she struggled watching her mother suffer, Kate Duffy Sim thought about the years when a rift had separated them. It had also been a time that left her feeling so abandoned by her Christian church that she turned to a Jewish faith community for healing—a part of her life that lasted for 15 years.

Feeling helpless that she couldn't do

anything to ease her mother's pain, Sim said a Jewish prayer, but it didn't help.

Then came the moment that changed everything for Sim, a moment that led her back to her childhood when she knelt by her bed and prayed the rosary.

"I reached a point where I was beyond words and beyond prayer," Sim recalls. "That's where I just rocked back and forth and said, 'Hail Mary, full of grace.' That just filled me up. I think that was the Blessed Mother reaching back to me and letting me know I wasn't without a mother, and she was there to help.

"I put my head on my mother's shoulder and started to sob, and she was gone.

I think she needed to see I needed her one last time."

'I see her everywhere'

In the moment that her mother died on Nov. 12, 2009, Sim started a new life and a renewed relationship with the Blessed Mother that has led her to embrace the Catholic faith.

"I was just going through the motions with my religion before that," she says. "There were family members I wanted to connect with. And I realized my job wasn't fulfilling me the way I wanted. Everything just hit the wall!"

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Parishes use a variety of means to prepare members for implementation of new translation of the Mass

By Sean Gallagher

In a little more than a week, parishes across central and southern Indiana will be using the new translation of the Mass for the first time.

It is the first major change to the words prayed at Mass in a generation. Many parish leaders have been hard at work preparing their parishioners for the new *Roman Missal*, and trying to help them come to a greater appreciation of the Mass at the same time.

But because of the diversity of parishes, a variety of approaches have been implemented to prepare archdiocesan Catholics for the new Mass translation.

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish is in the heart of Indianapolis, but, with 157 households, it is a relatively small parish community.

At the same time, Father Noah Casey, the cathedral's rector, says its parishioners come from more than 50 zip codes.

"I have to get them when they're here," Father Casey said.

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Father Eric Augenstein, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany, prays the eucharistic prayer during a Sept. 17 Mass at his parish's church. Our Lady of Perpetual Help and other parishes across central and southern Indiana have taken many approaches to preparing archdiocesan Catholics for the new Mass translation to be implemented on the weekend of Nov. 26-27.