

FALL 2006



The mission of the Vicariate is to be responsive to the ministry of its parishes, schools, institutions, and agencies by:



Coordinating pastoral planning



Enhancing communications and networking



Promoting collegiality



Identifying and utilizing all resources which can be shared

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Introducing ... ACTS: A Call to Serve

Last fall, the Pastoral Ministers' Association of our Pontiac Area Vicariate met to determine how our vicariate could better serve the area church by encouraging more participation and involvement in our local parishes. In order to meet the goals set by the Together In Faith initiative, an ad hoc Committee was established with the purpose of developing a training program for lay ministers who are interested in voluntary service. The committee of three members — Nancy Mason Bordley (St. John Fisher), Nancy Clancy (St. Andrew), and Mary Ann Dixon, OP (St. John Fisher) — met from January through June of this year. In just six months **ACTS: A Call to Serve** was written and produced and is now ready to be facilitated in our vicariate.

Purpose of ACTS

Many parishes are discovering how generously people respond with their time, talent and energy when they are invited to claim and utilize their God-given gifts. This enthusiastic response to ministry isn't surprising. ACTS offers an opportunity for training for those who have a sense of a call and giftedness in our Church's mission. Since "Everyone has a responsibility to answer the call to mission and to develop the gifts she or he has been given by sharing them in the family, workplace, the civic community and the parish or diocese" (p. 15 of "Called and Gifted," US Catholic Bishops), ACTS offers a series of training sessions to help parishioners develop and sharpen their own skills for volunteer ministry.

During the coming year, there will be three opportunities to participate in the ACTS training program in our Pontiac Area Vicariate. Different sites and dates have been selected in order to allow more people to participate. The first session will be held September 29th and 30th at St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish. Over the course of two days and eight clock hours, several topics and issues about ministry will be addressed including, the Who, What and How of Parish Ministry. Participants will gain a

deeper understanding and appreciation of their own gifts and how those gifts can be used to better serve their local parish and the Pontiac Area Church. Following completion of the training program, those who attend will be commissioned for service to their local parish and the Pontiac Area Vicariate.

What is so exciting about the ACTS program is that it offers parishioners an opportunity to come together with others in the area church to learn and sharpen their skills. Staff members at every one of our vicariate parishes work hard to recruit parishioners to volunteer and ACTS allows us to combine our efforts so that the training and formation for ministry can be focused and collaborative. As a vicariate we have combined our resources to develop a program that will help to meet many of the needs in our diverse and multi-cultural Catholic community. In other words, ACTS is for everyone! It's not limited to those who might be interested in professional ministry.



Lay Ministry Training
 for Voluntary Service

ACTS Training Sessions

Are you thinking of signing up for the first ACTS training session? Visit the Pontiac Area Vicariate Web

Site www.pontiacarevicariate.org to download a registration form or contact your own parish for a copy of the form. The sessions will likely fill up quickly so don't wait!

Two additional training sessions will be offered in the coming year – the tentative dates and locations are as follows: November 2, 9 and 16, 2006 at St. Michael's Parish in Pontiac and January 18, 25, and February 1, 2007 at St. Mary of the Hills in Rochester Hills. Please note that these dates and locations are subject to change. More information will be available soon regarding ACTS: A Call to Serve. Check the PAV website or contact your parish office.

For more information about **ACTS: A Call to Serve** contract Nancy Mason Bordley at Parishserv@aol.com. *

Hispanic Pastoral Assembly Brings Vicariate Together

The Pontiac Area Vicariate will hold its bi-annual Assembly on September 25, 2006 at St. John Fisher Parish from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. It is an opportunity for all members of PAV parish councils, schools, institutions and agency boards as well as all the Pastoral Ministers working in the different parishes to come together and continue the Together in Faith Process.

This Assembly will deal with a key issue for the PAV: How to serve the Hispanic community of our vicariate in a way which is consistent with our mission and will facilitate the integration of this large

Members:

Parishes

- Christ the Redeemer, Orion Township
- Pontiac Catholic Community
 - St. Michael
 - St. Joseph
 - St. Vincent
- Sacred Heart of the Hills, Auburn Hills
- St. Andrew, Rochester
- St. Benedict, Waterford
- St. Irenaeus, Rochester Hills
- St. John Fisher, Auburn Hills
- St. Joseph, Lake Orion
- St. Mary of the Hills, Rochester Hills
- St. Paul Albanian, Rochester Hills

Schools

- Holy Family Elementary, Rochester/Rochester Hills
- Marist Academy Lower Level St. Benedict Campus, Waterford
- St. Joseph School, Lake Orion
- Marist Academy Middle School, Pontiac
- Notre Dame Preparatory, Pontiac

Catholic Cemeteries

- Guardian Angels
- Mt. Hope

PAV Study on Pastoral Care of the Sick

Pastoral care of the sick is a significant way that we as the Body of Christ continue the mission and ministry of Jesus. One of the action plans that emerged from our vicariate as a result of the recent Together in Faith process focused on concerns about the pastoral care needs of the sick within our vicariate. With four major hospitals located within our boundaries – Crittenton Hospital in Rochester, and the three Pontiac hospitals: St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, Pontiac Osteopathic, and North Oakland Medical Center – there is an increased need for pastoral care of the sick and thus a greater need for pastoral resources in this area. In addition to the four hospitals are numerous extended care facilities as well as untold numbers of persons in private homes who are struggling with illness.

The Pontiac Area Vicariate ministers have been concerned for some time as to whether we are meeting the pastoral care needs of our sick brothers and sisters adequately, and in a timely fashion. This concern has been especially focused around the need for the Sacrament of the Sick/Anointing. Pastors and other pastoral ministers, hospital chaplains, and lay volunteers visiting the sick have all made us increasingly aware of the needs of the sick among us and of current gaps in providing pastoral care. As a result, our vicariate drafted an action plan to study this area of need, with the hope that we could identify gaps services and make appropriate recommendations for better meeting the needs of the sick among us.

Committee Surveys Facilities

An ad hoc committee on Pastoral Care of the Sick was formed in January 2006, and was initially composed of six professional ministers, based either in parishes or in hospital settings, all of whom are involved in pastoral care of the sick. The Archdiocese of Detroit provided two additional committee members to act as consultants and to assist with the project. To collect data about pastoral care needs of the sick within our vicariate, the committee designed a survey for parishes and health care institutions. This survey was sent to all Catholic parishes, Catholic hospitals, Catholic nursing homes, and Catholic treatment centers within the Pontiac Area Vicariate. Additional surveys were sent to non-Catholic hospitals within the Vicariate, nursing homes and assisted living facilities currently served by PAV

parishes, and Catholic parishes outside the PAV which geographically border the Pontiac hospitals.

The survey requested information in a number of areas, including,:

Trends indicate rising demand for Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion to the sick. Also needed is education about the Sacrament of the Sick so that it is requested as soon as it is appropriate.

Pastoral Care Survey preliminary findings

- How many emergency requests for the Sacrament of Anointing do you receive annually?
- How much time generally elapses between the request and administration of the sacrament?
- How many of these requests go unmet?
- How often do you offer communal Anointing of the Sick?
- How often is Communion to the sick offered?
- How many trained volunteers do you have to take Communion to the sick?
- Should there be more education about the Sacrament of the Sick?
- What strategies would you suggest to better meet the need for the Sacrament of the Sick/Anointing in an emergency?

Future Plans and Recommendations

A report of the findings from the study is being formulated and will include the committee's recommendations for strategies that might help us to better meet the pastoral care needs of the sick in our vicariate. The need for an additional survey aimed at individual parishioners is becoming apparent as well. A survey of Catholic parishioners "in the pews" would serve to correlate their responses to the same questions asked of the professional ministers, and would provide important data that would yield a more complete picture. All of these efforts will ultimately help us to more effectively meet the pastoral care needs of our sisters and brothers struggling with illness, and to continue the compassionate ministry of Jesus who urged us to "go and do likewise." *

Parish Leadership Conference 2006

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 at 6:15 PM
Keynote Speaker: Fr. Richard Fragomeni
"7 Gifts for Spiritual Ministry-
Enkindling the Holy Fire"

Cost: \$20.00 includes keynote presentation, two workshops, sandwiches and refreshments. Late fee after October 4th. Registration form at www.stjosephlakeorion.org (under parish).

Hosted by St. Joseph Parish, 715 N Lapeer Rd, Lake Orion, For more information, call Mary Martin at 248-693-0440 ext. 203.

The Vicar's Voice

Fr. Jerry Brzezinski, Vicar

What is a "vicariate"? Simply a grouping of parishes, schools, agencies and institutions who act together as an "Area Church." Our common denominator is our shared faith and discipleship as followers of Christ called to continue the mission of Jesus here and now. So our effort is to pull together our time, talent and treasure to accomplish things that either we cannot do as separate entities or can do much more effectively and efficiently together.

You might recall over these past two years along with the entire Archdiocese of Detroit we have been working on the Together in Faith process, a way to get to know better ourselves, our strengths and the needs in our Area Church. Now we, the Vicariate Pastoral Council (VPC) of the Pontiac Area Vicariate, are about implementing the Action Plans from the Together in Faith Process.

The VPC supports vicariate parishes, schools, active ministers and ministries by coordinating pastoral planning, enhancing communication, and identifying and utilizing resources which can be shared by as many as possible. The VPC is comprised of representatives from all PAV parishes as well as the Archdiocese of Detroit, the Pastoral Ministers' Association and PAV schools, agencies and institutions.

The primary focus of the Council this year will be areas addressed by these five ad hoc committees:

- **Hispanic Pastoral Plan Assembly:** Will present the Archdiocese of Detroit's (AOD) Hispanic Pastoral Plan at a Vicariate-wide assembly on September 25, 2006. This group will also explore and research a PAV Hispanic Pastoral Plan.
- **Finance:** Establish a permanent PAV Finance Committee that will oversee the fiscal management of the Vicariate. The ad hoc group will review available documentation from parishes, other Vicariates, and the Archdiocese of Detroit's Department of Finance and Administration. They will also recommend membership for the initial PAV Finance committee.
- **VPC Guidelines and Operational Procedures:** Review current AOD and Vicariate documents and prepare a draft for the PAV's Guidelines and Operational Procedures.
- **New Parish in the Northern Part of the Pontiac Area Vicariate:** Determine requirements for establishing a new parish and if these are present in the northern portion of the PAV. Tools at the disposal of this group are documents of the AOD, demographic data of the northern area as well as the current makeup of the both St. Andrew and St. Joseph parishes. The ad hoc committee will make a recommendation to the Vicariate Pastoral Council regarding the establishment of a new parish in the northern part of the Pontiac Area Vicariate.
- **Emergency Pastor Replacement Plan and Impact of Priest Shortage:** Develop an action plan for the PAV in the event of a sudden loss of a pastor and other implications of and solutions to the priest shortage. These scenarios will likely include options for clustering, merging and/or closing parishes.

Please keep the work of our Area Church in your prayers and support our ministry through your parishes, schools, agencies and institutions. May God's blessing and peace always be with you! ✱

*Hispanic Pastoral Assembly
(Continued from page 1)*

population in all the ministries of the Vicariate.

The growth of the Hispanic population has been well documented in the recent months through discussion about the issue of immigration. What is less known is the fact that while "Spanish speaking" represent only 12.5% (2000 census) of the total US population it represents 37% of the total Catholic population. And yet, 6.3% of the total number of priests in the U.S. are from Hispanic origin. By tradition and culture the Hispanic community has always linked faith and life. They bring to the "Anglo church" a sense of family, community and celebrations.

The Archdiocese of Detroit has developed a plan for Hispanic ministry. The purpose of our September assembly is to:

1. Understand the Archdiocesan plan,
2. Develop a specific plan for the Vicariate, and
3. Learn about available resources.

All our parishes, schools, hospitals and social agencies are serving people of Hispanic origin. They bring with them a rich catholic culture. How can we facilitate their participation in the life of the Church and develop the necessary leadership for this large population which is critical for the future of our Church?

Come and join the Pontiac Area Vicariate Pastoral Assembly on September 25, 2006. ✱

www.pontiacarevicariate.org

Members:

Religious Communities

- Oxford Dominican Sisters
- St. Benedict Monastery

Chaplaincies

- Crittenton Hospital
- North Oakland Medical Center
- Oakland County Jail
- Oakland County Juveniles
- POH Medical Center
- St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

Nursing Homes

- Lake Orion
- Mercy Bellbrook
- Oakland County Medical Care Facility
- Lourdes Campus

Oakland County

- Campus Ministry
- Catholic Community Response Team
- Catholic Social Services
- Genesis Young Adult/Campus Ministry
- Fusion Ministry
- Guest House

