



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

Contact:

Fr. Jerry Brzezinski, Vicar
 248-373-6457
 jbrzezinski@ameritech.net
 Lew Elbert, VPC Chair
 248-673-5502
 elbertje@comcast.net

Hispanic Pastoral Plan Moves Forward

Each year the Vicariate Pastoral Council selects a set of goals for themselves and the Pontiac Area Vicariate. For 2007-2008, one of these is to move forward in the implementation of the PAV Hispanic Pastoral Plan. An Ad Hoc Committee was created to achieve this by:

- Suggesting ways to integrate so we may better serve our Hispanic brothers and sisters as an Area Church using available Hispanic Pastoral Plans from the PAV and Pontiac Catholic community.
- Implementing the results from 2006/2007 Hispanic Pastoral Plan.
- Developing an Hispanic component of ACTS: A Call To Serve lay ministry training for volunteers and host one ACTS session for the Pontiac Catholic Community.

Under the leadership of committee Chair Santiago Fernandez, committee members Fr. Sean Sylvestre, Terry Mike, Luz Telleria, Marge Huggard and Janet Dinsmoore have met four times. They have identified the following for implementation at PAV parishes (other than the Pontiac Catholic Community):

- Draft bulletin announcements/invitations in Spanish (see below).
- Identify Hispanic leadership currently involved in PAV parishes.
- Publish a Spanish version of the PAV newsletter.
- Disseminate information at PAV parishes about Catholic Social Services of Oakland County Hispanic Outreach services.
- Promote the inclusion of Spanish/bilingual liturgical songs.
- Make Spanish/bilingual resources available to Directors of Religious Education.
- Draft engaging and informative articles for the PAV newsletter to help dissipate animosity to-

ward undocumented Hispanic population.

- Provide opportunities for women to have parish-centered activities.

The Committee also recommends supporting an existing initiative by the Pontiac Catholic Community to coordinate outreach ministry to trailer parks as there are groups in these communities that already meet regularly and participate in PCC activities. Since these groups represent different PAV parishes, the committee suggests that the VPC interact with them to begin establishing a connection with our Hispanic brothers and sisters that live in the area and participate with these groups. Once the link is made, the goal would be to have them hold their meetings at PAV parishes. This Base Communities model has been endorsed by the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry since 1987.

Two ongoing challenges have come up that merit further work. First is the question of how the PAV can be of assistance to the Pontiac Catholic Community while still making a genuine effort to meet the needs of Hispanics within their parish boundaries. A corollary to this is how can the Pontiac Catholic Community be of assistance to the PAV in identifying Hispanic brothers and sisters in other PAV parishes and launching into the implementation phase of this process

As parishioners and parish staff are contacted in the coming months to take this to the next step, they are asked to remember that the PAV Hispanic Ad Hoc committee is a Vicariate initiative, not an Hispanic initiative solely for the benefit of Hispanics. It acknowledges and respects existing structures and seeks to find ways to implement initiatives utilizing current resources and personnel. There is much to be gained for everyone if we have open minds and open hearts. *

ATTENTION HISPANIC BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

We want you to know that we have become aware of the growth of the Hispanic population within this vicariate, and that we will make an effort to better serve you. All of you are an integral part of our vicariate family and your enriching presence in this community is of great enthusiasm to us. We will begin raising awareness of the local Hispanic presence in the coming months through parish bulletins, offering information and exploring different possibilities to collaborate and incorporate Hispanic ministry into our parish communities. Your input is welcome and your help is needed. Please contact your parish office if you are interested. Thank you and may God continue to bless you!

¡ATENCIÓN HERMANOS Y HERMANAS HISPANOS!

Quemos que sepan que estamos al tanto del crecimiento de la población hispana en este vicariato y que haremos un esfuerzo por servirles mejor. Todos ustedes son parte integral de nuestra familia eclesial y su enriquecedora presencia en esta comunidad nos entusiasma mucho. Impulsaremos la concienciación acerca de la presencia hispana local en los próximos meses a través de boletines parroquiales, ofreciendo información y explorando diferentes posibilidades de colaboración e incorporación del ministerio hispano a nuestras comunidades parroquiales. Se aceptan sugerencias y se necesita su ayuda. Por favor comuníquense con la oficina parroquial si están interesados. ¡Gracias y que Dios los siga bendiciendo!

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 Welcomes Bishop Daniel Flores

Although he has been in the Archdiocese of Detroit for over a year, many PAV parishioners may not be aware that Bishop Daniel Flores is now the Regional Bishop for the Pontiac Area Vicariate. In the Spring of 2007, Cardinal Maida made organizational changes in the AOD resulting in a new grouping of the Pontiac Area, Thumb and Southwest Vicariates. One of the motivations for this change was to form a connection among the Vicariates with the largest concentration of Hispanic residents. Bishop Flores has been participating in the PAV through the September 2007 Christian Service Assembly, and with the Ad Hoc Hispanic Committee (see article page one).

Bishop Flores was born in 1961 in Palacios, Texas and grew up in Flour Bluff, near Corpus Christi. His parents, Fernando Javier Flores and Lydia Dilley Flores, and two brothers and one sister attended St. Paul the Apostle Church where Flores received his first Holy Communion and Confirmation.

During high school, he began to consider the possibility of studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Corpus Christi. He attended the University of Texas at Austin for two years, prior to entering the seminary. In 1981, he entered Holy Trinity Seminary at the University of Dallas, where students preparing for the priesthood did their studies in philosophy and theology. He graduated from the University of Dallas with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy in 1983, and with a Master of Divinity in 1987. In January 1988, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Corpus Christi by Bishop Rene H. Gracida.

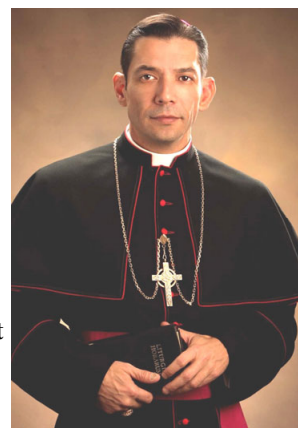
As a priest of the diocese, he served in a number of capacities, including Parochial Vicar at Corpus Christi Cathedral, Secretary to the Bishop, Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Assistant Chancellor, Rector of the Saint John Vianney House of Studies, and Episcopal Vicar for Vocations. In September 1995, Pope

John Paul II named him a Chaplain to His Holiness, with the honorary title of Monsignor.

In September 1997, he was sent by Bishop Roberto Gonzalez, OFM, to Rome to pursue a doctoral degree in the theology of Saint Thomas Aquinas at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum). Living at that time at the North American College, Casa Santa Maria in Rome, he completed his degree (S.T.D.) in 2000.

He returned to Corpus Christi that year, and was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Corpus Christi by Bishop Edmond Carmody. He served in that capacity until August 2001, when he was assigned to serve in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston as part of the formation faculty of St. Mary's Seminary and the teaching faculty at the University of St. Thomas School of Theology. He taught courses in Patristics, Medieval and Thomistic Theology, and Modern Catholic Literature. He was named Vice-Rector of St. Mary's Seminary in June 2002.

In September 2005, Bishop Edmond Carmody named him to serve as Rector of Corpus Christi Cathedral, an office he administered while completing his assignment in Houston during the 2005 and 2006 academic year. In June of 2006, he returned to the Diocese of Corpus Christi to assume the position of Cathedral Rector on a full time basis. In October 2006, he was named an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit and was ordained at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on November 29, 2006. ✱



Called To Serve™ Teen Certification

Called to Serve™, the new workshop for teens in Grades 9-12, is ready for implementation in the parishes and high schools of the Archdiocese of Detroit. The program is similar to, but not a modified version of, *Protecting God's Children* for adults. Called to Serve™, is specifically designed to help teens enhance their skills for church employment and/or volunteer ministry.

Called to Serve™ is an interactive, skill-building workshop that will help teens to:

- Use their talents to effectively and responsibly serve others
- Work with and be a role model for children
- Communicate and partner with adult supervisors
- Interact appropriately with their peers
- Recognize and respond to inappropriate behavior

All teens, both paid and volunteer, and those whose service involves children are required to attend a workshop. Each 3-hour workshop, led by a trained facilitator, includes faith enrichment, interactive learning, food and fun. Information included in the workshop illustrates the nature and necessity for safe and healthy "boundaries" as well as discussion of those boundaries in relation to the teens' service roles.

The parishes in the Pontiac Area Vicariate are in the process of determining date and locations for our Called to Serve™ workshops. ✱



