

FALL 2008



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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PAV Services and Operations Benefit All

The Pontiac Area Vicariate supports five continuing operational ministries that serve everyone in the Vicariate. Each of these activities exist to further the mission of the PAV, namely to coordinate pastoral planning and share resources. Presented here are highlights of recent activities and accomplishments.

Youth Ministry

St. Irenaeus, St. Joseph, and St. Mary of the Hills all do amazing summer work projects. St. Irenaeus and St. Joseph's programs are both called Project People.

The St. Joseph Project People participated in a local 5-day mission project. During the week of July 20th, 29 students and 17 staff gathered on the hill of St. Benedict Monastery in Oxford. The students traded in their iPods and cell phones for paint brushes, tools and work gloves to become the hands of Christ in our own community. They worked hard and, with the Holy Spirit at their sides, accomplished that which was just short of miraculous.

St. Irenaeus, St. Andrew and St. Mary of the Hills youth groups spent the day at Cedar Point together on June 17, 2008. It was a day of nice weather and great fun for many of the over 100 youths that attended the trip.

Sacred Heart of the Hills went to World Youth Day in Australia. Some other local parishes attended World Youth Day in Sydney, Ohio, which coordinated with the World Youth Day event in Australia.

*Chris Kozlowski
Chair, PAV Youth Ministry*



Project People teens from St. Joseph parish in Lake Orion working at the Benedictine Monastery in Oxford.

Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT)

The Archdioceses approved an operating grant to CCRT for \$20,000 for the 2008/2009 year. This grant is used to cover our overhead and is separate from the funding for client services.

CCRT 2008 requests for assistance:

- Food 276
- Rent 157
- Security Deposits 77
- Utility Payment Assistance 178

- Furniture & Household 168
- Clothing 289
- Auto Repair Expenses 8
- Identification Documents 75
- Eyeglasses 24
- Job Information 51
- Prescription Expenses 8

Additionally, CCRT fields approximately 75 calls a week from persons in need of assistance. Many of these calls result in appointments for clients to come into our office for an intake and further assistance. In all cases, we make every attempt possible to give direction and suggestions to the person in need to resolve their situation.

Volunteers needed!

We are currently seeking help with data input, office assistance, and client advocates. If any of these options interest you, please contact CCRT Director Barb Williams at 248-333-3700 ext. 3332.

A personal story

Over the summer, CCRT had the privilege of working with an 18-year-old girl who escaped from an abusive upbringing. Her parents lived "under the radar," moving every 2-3 months. She was home-schooled, or in her case not schooled. Thanks to the PAV and our partnership with Catholic Social Services, this life has been saved. This young woman is now in supportive housing and attending school for the first time in her life. Although she faces numerous challenges she says, "so many of you believe in me I don't want to let you down." Keep praying for our clients.

*Barbara Williams
CCRT Director*

ACTS: A Call To Serve Lay Ministry Training for Voluntary Service

ACTS is a program developed and presented by the PAV to train lay ministers for voluntary service. The training day includes a strong foundation in theology and information on the Who, What and How of Parish Ministry.

WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008 from 9:00 AM — 3:30 PM
WHERE: St. John Fisher Parish, 3665 Walton Blvd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326
COST: \$10 per person for journal and materials (\$30 for persons outside the PAV)
NOW WHAT: Register by mailing registration form (available online) and check payable to PAV/ACTS to 3665 Walton Blvd., Auburn Hills, MI 48326 For additional information, contact Nancy at parishserv@aol.com, 248.373.6457 ext. 3101, or visit www.pontiacarevicariate.org.



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 Services and Operations, continued)

Crittenton Chaplaincy

Spiritual Care is available to patients and families from the Crittenton Hospital Chaplain. In 2007-2008, the PAV continued with its share of supporting this ministry.

Genesis Ministries Attends World Youth Day

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 ...and to the ends of the earth we certainly went! If my own journey is any indication, the immensity of the experience and the fruits of our prayer and pilgrimage are only just starting to unfold. Having led the pilgrimage to Sydney, my mind in the immediate moments during the events was often filled with the “to-do lists,” logistics, schedules, and trying to ascertain whether everyone was happy, healthy and growing from the journey.

It wasn't until I was putting together my photo album that I began to go into the heart of the pilgrimage for myself. All of the pilgrims on our journey experienced moments of discovery of our loving God, moments that have set our hearts on fire much like those first apostles.

The Holy Spirit, who is always at work within us, has led us to open our hearts to pray more deeply than we ever knew we could and in ways that we never imagined ourselves praying, be it reciting the rosary through the streets of Sydney or praying on the train. For Anna, this was not so surprising. “I felt more than ever that I was being

my true self... I felt an immediate bond with many of these pilgrims, with whom we shared hugs and high-fives, if not language and nationality... and I couldn't help but think that Heaven has to be very similar in the sense of harmony and unity of purpose.”

The events of World Youth Day stretched us beyond ourselves, forcing us in many ways to face the barriers that keep us from fully embracing God. Fr. John Martin, who came along as our spiritual director, shared with us that even though we may not notice it, he's a bit of a worrier. But in every step of this journey, by facing and sharing his struggles with the community and those closest to him, the Holy Spirit opened him to the grace of God. “How can I describe what I felt, except that I'm sure many of you [pilgrims] felt it too – that giant sense of God's Spirit, of communion with our brothers and sisters, of profound peace and joy. How could I doubt any longer that God had me right where He wanted me?” He wasn't alone. Christa shares, “I was forced to face [my struggles], knowing that [people] truly did want to help and that they were acting in the Spirit of Christ. This was a wonderful discovery...”

Laura and Andrea's frustrating journey to the Sydney Opera House led them to this discovery: “The journey is what prepares us for the destination and the journey is what we have here on earth. We don't know the exact details of our destination, but we do know that the price of journey is worth the wonder of the destination. We know that the journey will have times where we run as fast as we can toward the destination leaving

the obstacles in the dust, times where we wander aimlessly in frustration because we don't know the way, times where we hunger deeply to have a hint of our destination, times where we find the nourishment we need to continue on the journey, and times when an angel of the Lord leads us past the obstacles and straight to where we need to be and hopefully to our final destination.”

Pope Benedict XVI presented the youth with a challenging question: “How are you using the gifts you have been given, the ‘power’ which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you?” For Tony, this was the heart of the experience. “I realized that I must uphold a sense of personal responsibility in order to do my part... I realized that I must meet God halfway if this was going to work... What does God want me to do with the gifts He has so graciously given me?”

Moving forward from our blessed time in Sydney, each of us is called to take what we were given there and continue to be graced with by the Spirit and share that gift with the world in the name of Jesus Christ. I can personally say that the World Youth Day song we sung countless times for the duration of the week is still stuck in my head, and as Fr. John Martin observed, the song serves as an effective reminder of what it was all about: “*Alleluia! Alleluia! Receive the power from the Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Receive the power to be a light unto the world!*” ✱

Rakhi Roy

Director, Genesis Ministries



Left Photo: Front Row (left to right): Fr. John Martin, Tony Thompson, Jerry LaPointe, Anna Dudek. Back row: Laura Uschold, Andrea Hooper, Rakhi Roy, Christa Lindsey, Sandra Tomaszycski; Center Photo: World Youth Day Papal Mass Right Photo: Fr. John Martin, Laura Uschold, Andrea Hooper, pilgrim from Paraguay, Rakhi Roy, Anna Dudek, Sandra Tomaszycski, pilgrim from Paraguay

PAV Fall Assembly Asks “Who Is My Neighbor?”

The annual fall gathering of leadership in the Pontiac Area Vicariate will take place on Monday, October 6, 2008 at Sacred Heart of the Hills parish. The evening will focus on the theme “Who is my neighbor?” using the gospel story of the Good Samaritan and relating it to the upcoming elections.

The keynote speaker will be Jill Rauh, Issue Outreach and Youth and Young Adult Coordinator for the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Her presentation will not focus on specific candidates or positions, but will explore the many rich messages contained in the USCCB’s Faithful Citizenship statement, including: the call to participation, formation of conscience, doing good while avoiding evil, the application of the Catholic Social Teaching principles in the political realm, and the bishops’ policy priorities. Interaction with the statement will enrich the experiences of the assembly attendees during this election season and beyond.

Attendees at PAV assemblies include pastors, Parish Council members, school board members, parish staff and commission/ministry members, as well as individuals from PAV agencies and institutions. Kit Wojcik, Vicariate Pastoral Council representative from St. Andrew’s, is chairing the Assembly planning committee which also includes Janet Dinsmoore, Joe Pauwels, and Steve Lawless.*

More information on Faithful Citizenship can be found at www.faithfulcitizenship.org

Vicariate Off and Running on 2008-09 Goals

Since 2005 the Pontiac Area Vicariate Pastoral Council has been setting yearly objectives focusing on achieving the ten principal goals within the PAV’s Together In Faith plan. The TIF plan guides the PAV’s leadership and resources to seek and develop programs and services that are most efficiently executed by the Area Church rather than individual parishes or agencies.

For the 2008-2009 activity year, your Vicariate Pastoral Council is taking the following actions to move us closer to our goals:

Sacramental Goal 1: Respond to the need for sacraments from the Hispanic community.

Action: An ad hoc committee will continue the execution of the PAV Hispanic Pastoral Plan, including the planning and execution of a PAV Hispanic Catholic Gathering.

Sacramental Goal 2: Respond to the decline of ordained ministers relative to the demands of hospitals and retirement homes for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Action: Complete the PAV Pastoral Care Plan and begin its execution by providing pastoral care to the sick at area hospitals and nursing homes.

Strategic Goal 1: Initiate dialog regarding the needs within the PAV and provide education, information and communication.

Actions: Publish four PAV newsletters; Organize Fall and Spring PAV Leadership Assemblies; Charter a Standing Committee, “PAV Services Operations Committee,” to more closely support and sustain the existing PAV operations (Catholic Community Response Team, ACTS Lay Ministry Training, Youth Ministries, Vision 2000 Phase II, and Genesis Ministries).

Strategic Goal 2: Coordinate Parish activities to increase the development of Christian Service and support for social agencies within Pontiac.

Action: Create and execute operations support plans for Catholic Community Response Team and Genesis Ministries.

Sustainable Goal 1: Coordinate and educate the Vicariate on stewardship.

Action: Communicate awareness of AOD Parish Business Manager Training.

Sustainable Goal 2: Engage and develop lay women and men ministers to support all sacramental and pastoral activities.

Action: Create A Call To Serve” (ACTS) Operations and Support Plan.

Sustainable Goal 3: Support the financial needs of PAV Catholic Schools and their integration in the pastoral and Sacramental life of the Parish communities.

Actions: PAV Vision 2000 Phase II Plan; 2008-9 Youth Ministries Operations and Support Plan; Coordinate the PAV School Development Plan with the AOD Catholic School Plan; Implement “Called to Serve - Protecting God’s Children” youth training program.

This ambitious list of actions is achievable largely due to the efforts and dedication of your Vicariate Representatives. These are volunteers provided by the Parish Councils within our Vicariate.

Sent to serve our area church, they function not only as the main source of Vicariate/Parish communication, but also staff the standing and ad hoc committees and perform the work necessary to take the ideas and needs identified within our parishes, schools, agencies and institutions and turn them into efficient value-added shared services.

Please continue to support them with your ideas, friendly smiles and prayers as they work this year to strengthen our Area Church.*

*Steve Lawless
Chair, Vicariate Pastoral Council*

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 Oakland

Nursing Homes

- Lake Orion
- Sanctuary at 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