

WINTER 2009



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
 Steve Lawless, VPC Chair,
 BScout186@aol.com
 248-391-8284

PAV Implements Pastoral Care of the Sick Plan

After a long journey and much effort, the Pontiac Area Vicariate is about to implement a series of coordinated programs that we hope will provide our area church with comprehensive pastoral care of our sick.

Two years ago the PAV Vicariate Pastoral Council Ad Hoc Committee surveyed area health care service providers and pastoral care ministers to understand the pastoral care requirements of our area sick. The survey data confirmed that people in our area church had pastoral needs that were not being met and that the burden of responding to emergencies for pastoral care, such as providing the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, often strained the resources of parishes nearest the hospitals.

Last year a second survey at parishes provided additional insight into the needs and desires of PAV parishioners. It also identified opportunities for educational and communication improvements that could reduce emergency requests for pastoral care.

The new PAV plan for providing pastoral care to the sick involves the following programs:

Standard Chaplain Anointing: Many of our area hospitals have priests that serve as Chaplains. The plan is to have them regularly offer Anointing of the Sick as part of their normal visits. The intent is to provide pastoral care in a manner that also reduces emergency requests when unforeseeable health complications occur.

Standard Health Care Service Provider Orientation: The staffs and administrations of our area hospitals understand the value of spiritual care to the health of their patients. The plan is to provide each facility with sufficient orientation, literature, and communication to enable them to assist their patients in obtaining any requested pastoral care, preferably through the requestor's parish, but when that is not possible, through the shared support of our area church. This will reduce the need for unscheduled emergency requests.

Regular Parish Programs (Anointing, Viaticum & Visits): All of our Vicariate parishes have ministries and programs to address the pastoral care of their parishioners. The plan is to provide each

parish with sufficient information so that the PAV-coordinated programs for the sick become common knowledge throughout the area church. The intent is that all parishioners will have sufficient understanding of Viaticum and the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and how they, or others that they may be assisting, may receive this care through their parishes, or where that is not possible, through the shared support of our area church. As this understanding becomes common knowledge, the need for unscheduled emergency requests will be further reduced.

Vicariate Coordinated Parish Program Communication: Some parishes offer the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at regular intervals or even at designated masses. These opportunities enable parishioners that are ill or concerned about their health to obtain this grace in a manner that does not require the unscheduled attention of our priests. The PAV will collect and publish these scheduled opportunities so that those who have a need (e.g., they have just been scheduled for surgery), but

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CCRT Asks for Help to Serve Needy in the Vicariate

The Catholic Community Response Team is so appreciative of the many donations given from the PAV Catholic Community to our clients. In the past twelve months we have worked with over 500 adults and 200 children supplying basic needs of food, clothing, housing and utilities. Below is a list of the major needs requested and the number of times CCRT provided help:

Food	320
Clothing	319
Rent Support	306
Utility Payments	162
Personal Grooming	313
Furniture/	
Household goods	207
Identification Documents	64

Eyeglasses	26
Automotive Repair	26
Tax Service	12
TOTAL	1853

Recently, a young mother, who had lost most of her possessions when her home had been flooded with raw sewage, told me that it would be Christmas enough for her if she could get beds for her four children. Last week a mentally impaired man wanted help with a security deposit because the home his family was renting had been foreclosed on. "We want to be settled by Christmas" he said. Another woman needing help with her gas bill said "it's hard to cook a turkey on a hot plate."

This year CCRT is asking our Parish Communities to help with these basic needs. Would you be able to spare \$10 - \$50 - \$100 dollars to provide Christmas in the form of food, shelter, gas or electricity for those in need in our own community? If you can help, please complete the donation form on the next page and send it to us.

As Charles Dickens said, "No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another." Many thanks for all you have done and your generous support in the future! *

Sincerely,
 Barbara Williams
 CCRT Director

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

(Pastoral Care, continued from page 1)

may have missed the regularly scheduled opportunity at their parish, may choose to receive the sacrament at another parish. This enables unscheduled emergency requests to be further reduced.

Emergency Service Requests:

There are always going to be requests for the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick by our brothers and sisters in the most dire of circumstances. In these instances, when they most feel the need for their church, we must be there. We must not fail them. The Vicariate programs previously described are designed to ensure that non-emergency requests for Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum are satisfied in a manner that can be planned and scheduled. This lightens the burden for our priests. To

support emergencies, the Vicariate will provide an emergency call service for use by chaplains, hospital/nursing home staff, and parishes. Supported with schedules, parish locations and contact information, the call service will be able to identify and contact the appropriate priest to respond to the emergency. The intent is to provide multiple levels of support (chaplains, parish priests and on-call priests) to ensure that every emergency request can be satisfied.

The next steps for Pastoral Care implementation involve:

Completion of Initial Program Materials:

These include a brochure and a web page. The brochure will be distributed throughout parishes and health care facilities. It will explain the What, Where, When, Why, Who and

How of the Sacrament of the Sick, and Viaticum. The web site will contain the brochure information, a video explanation of the Sacrament of the Sick from Msgr. Zenz, a question and answer link and a 2009 Anointing of the Sick schedule at our Vicariate parishes. Parishes will be encouraged to link to this page from their websites.

Orientation of Participants: Orientation meetings are being planned with the hospital chaplains, nursing homes and other care facilities and parish staffs.

Operation of the Emergency Call Center: Create the necessary schedules and processes and then hire a supporting answering service.

Future issues of the PAV newsletter will provide updates on how this program progresses. *

Fr. Pop's Clinic in Need!

There is an extreme need for volunteer medical personnel, especially doctors, at Fr. Pop's Clinic, Inc. to serve those who are uninsured and under-insured. The clinic is located at 20 Whittmore, (across Woodward from St. Vincent de Paul Church) in Pontiac.

Volunteer physicians serve 2 to 3 hours once a month providing free general medical service (excluding pediatrics, obstetrics, surgery and pain management)

with professional courtesy lab service to help in diagnosis. We would like to expand medical services afternoons and evenings on Wednesdays, as well as on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the late afternoon or evenings to meet needs caused by the Michigan economic condition. We also need additional nurses, lab techs and office workers to meet the need without over-taxing anyone; we are working a 2 to 3 hour shift for all volunteers.

The Fr. Pop Clinic was established in 1974 by Rev. Edward Popielarz with help from Dr. John Dorsey, MD. Presently the clinic serves clients within a 30- to 40-mile radius. For more information, or to offer assistance, please e-mail Sr. Patricia Malone, RSM at pmalonermsm@hotmail.com or call her at 248-334-2126 (Wednesdays) or 248-253-0251 (weekdays). *

Catholic Community Response Team—A Pontiac Area Vicariate Service Operation

When I was hungry, you gave me food; when I was homeless or in jail, thirsty or naked, you responded to me.

I/We can help with:

___ Rent ___ Utilities ___ Food/Clothing ___ Household Items

___ \$10 ___ \$20 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$\$\$

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mail To: Pontiac Area Vicariate — CCRT (Checks Payable to *Pontiac Area Vicariate-CCRT*)
3665 E. Walton Blvd, Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2236

PAV Fall Assembly Examined Election and Beyond

It may seem like long ago now, but the November election was the very timely topic of the PAV Fall Leadership Assembly. On October 6, Sacred Heart of the Hills parish hosted over 100 attendees from PAV parishes, schools, agencies, and institutions to enjoy dinner, meet counterparts from neighboring parishes, and ponder the question, “Who Is My Neighbor in the Light of the 2008 Election?”

Both the Vicariate Pastoral Council and the Pastoral Ministers’ Association have adopted the theme, “Who Is My Neighbor?” for their meetings and efforts this year. Planning committee members Kit Wojcik (St. Andrew), Joe Pauwels (St. John Fisher), Janet Dinsmoore (Sacred Heart of the Hills), and Steve Lawless (St. Joseph) worked to put together an evening of prayer and information that addressed this key question. The intent was not to discuss specific candidates or issues, but to understand what gospel and church teachings Catholics should consider when deciding how to cast their votes.

The keynote speaker was Jill Rauh, Issue Outreach and Youth and Young Adult Coordinator at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Jill works to raise awareness around Catholic social teaching on specific issues and manages justice and peace programming for Catholics. She also works on special projects, such as content development and outreach on Faithful Citizenship.

Jill began her address by reminding the audience of two famil-



Assembly Planning Committee: Joe Pauwels, Janet Dinsmoore, Speaker Jill Rauh, Kit Wojcik, and Steve Lawless

iar scripture passages:

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” and
“... Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ ‘He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’”

As Catholics, our responsibilities toward our neighbors include works of charity and justice. Charity involves direct social services and help to individuals to meet present needs. Justice, on the other hand, concerns the larger issues of social change to correct long-term problems in communities.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has published a document on Faithful Citizenship that explains the call to political responsibility and formation of conscience. This writing

affirms and expands upon Catholic Social Teaching as it pertains to public issues. It aids us in developing a moral framework by prayerfully considering such things as: life and dignity of the human person; call to family, community and participation; preferential option for the poor and vulnerable; dignity of work and the rights of workers; and care for God’s creation.

Finally, Faithful Citizenship urges us to always oppose evil and promote good. While this sounds easy, and perhaps obvious, sometimes the issues are not apparent, or the choice not clear. All life issues are connected and the moral imperative to respond to the needs of our neighbors – basic needs such as food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work – is universally binding on our consciences and may be legitimately fulfilled by a variety of means. Catholics must seek the best way to respond to those needs. Two temptations are often present in the quest to oppose evil and pursue good: moral equivalence and moral indifference. The first is the inability to draw distinctions between issues while the latter involves the misuse of distinctions to suit a particular leaning.

At the conclusion of her talk, Jill suggested practical ways for individuals and communities to take action and live the call of Faithful Citizenship. These ideas are useful for all of us, all year long, not just at election time. Conscience formation is a lifelong process! *

Practical ideas for living the call to Faithful Citizenship on a regular basis:

- Obtain statements, videos, podcasts, family resources, ministry/teaching resources, and an 11-week scripture study at www.faithfulcitizenship.org
- Adult and Youth information at Just Faith, www.justfaith.org
- Justice and Peace Human Development website: www.usccb.org/sdwp
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development: www.usccb.org/cchd
- Speaki for the poor and vulnerable at lobby day
- Educate yourself and others via bulletins, newsletters, presentations, and events

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

PAV Website:

www.pontiacarevicariate.org

Email:

admin@pontiacarevicariate.org