



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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Welcome New PAV Pastors!

The Pontiac Area Vicariate welcomes three new pastors who began their assignments on July 1.

Fr. Brian Chabala is the fourth pastor assigned to St. Irenaeus parish in Rochester Hills since the parish was established by then Cardinal John Dearden in 1967. A Detroit native, he was born and raised in Redford Township and attended St. Agatha elementary and high school, graduating in 1968. Fr. Brian attended Sacred Heart Seminary College and St. John Provincial Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood on June 11, 1977. Since his ordination, Fr. Brian has served at St. Basil Parish in East-pointe; St. Frances Cabrini in Allen Park; St. Mary in Wayne; St. Mary in Monroe and most recently as pastor of St. Fabian Parish in Farmington Hills.

Interested in working outdoors, travel, and water sports, Fr. Brian also has a love and appreciation for "all things Italian" especially its culture, history, food and language. Being a west-sider, Fr. Brian is finding his way in this part of the Archdiocese and thoroughly enjoys the challenges and discoveries that a new pastorate brings.

Fr. Frane Kolaj begins his new post as pastor of St. Paul Albanian in Rochester Hills learning not only about a new parish but also a new country and language. Born in Kosovo, he attended elementary school in Zllakuqan and high school in Subotica. He obtained his college degree in Philosophy and Theology in 1986 in Zagreb, Croatia. Since his ordination, Fr. Kolaj has been a chaplain and prefect at a seminary, pastor at three parishes, and Vicar General of the Diocese of Kosovo. Prior to coming to St. Paul, he served at the Albanian Catholic Mission in Switzerland from 2009-2011.

Fr. Kolaj is multi-lingual, speaking Albanian, Croatian, and German. He plans to undertake an intense study of English in the coming months. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, soccer, basketball, running and ping-pong. Since Fr. Kolaj was ordained on July 4, 1987, the St. Paul community now has another reason to celebrate at their annual Fourth of July festival!

Fr. Larry Siroskey is the new Parish Administrator at St. Benedict in Waterford. By his own admission, he has been dreaming of

finding a medium-size parish to lead, and is delighted with his new assignment. Born in Detroit and raised in Dearborn, he attended Divine Child elementary school and Sacred Heart high school seminary, graduating in the last class of that school in 1970. Before entering St. John's Seminary, he received Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Detroit.

Since being ordained in 1980, Fr. Larry has served at St. John Neumann in Canton; SS Peter & Paul in Detroit; St. Frances Cabrini in Allen Park; St. Christine in Detroit; and St. Helena and St. Stanislaus Kostka in Wyandotte. He has also been chaplain at Henry Ford Wyandotte hospital. He is a true Detroit sports fan, and enjoys cooking, all kinds of music, reading, and many other hobbies. Fr. Larry is fluent in Spanish. In a way, Fr. Larry is returning to the PAV, having spent a summer as a seminarian living and working at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Pontiac in 1976.

The PAV is grateful to Frs. Chabala, Kolaj and Siroskey for their service to their parishes and the Pontiac Area Vicariate. ✱

Day of Formation For Lay Ministers to the Sick

Last October, over fifty lay ministers of the sick from our vicariate gathered for an inspiring day of formation and reflection on their ministry. The day was a great blessing to all who attended, and there was an expressed desire to offer such an event on an annual basis. Therefore, the Second Annual PAV Formation Day for Lay Ministers to the Sick will be offered on Saturday, October 22, from 9 AM to 1:30 PM at St. Mary of the Hills parish in Rochester Hills.

Since last year's group expressed interest in learning more about ministering to the dying, the theme this year is "Companioning the Dying on the Journey Home." The program will focus on how lay ministers can accompany the dying on their final journey, offering their prayerful presence, care, and spiritual support, so that the dying per-

son might be at peace as they make their journey home. Presenters will again be Sr. Mary Finn, H.V.M.,

"The Christian community has a continuing responsibility to pray for and with the person who is dying. Through its sacramental ministry to the dying the community helps Christians to embrace death in mysterious union with the crucified and risen Lord, who awaits them in the fullness of life."

—Pastoral Care of the Sick:
 Rites of Anointing and Viaticum

who will speak on "Companioning the Dying," and Fr. Mike Verschaeve, who will speak on "Unfinished Business: What Dying Persons Most Need to Say and Do." There will also be opportunities for discussion and reflection, and a

blessing of the lay ministers. Lunch will be provided. There is no cost for the program, though a freewill offering for lunch will be accepted.

If you are a layperson who ministers to the sick and the dying in your parish, or at a hospital, assisted living center, nursing home, or other setting, then this day is for you! Come and join other lay ministers as we explore together how to better companion God's People on their final journeys.

You may register by contacting Kathy Hasty at 248.693.0440 ext. 211 or by email at khasty@stjosephlakeorion.org. You can also register online at www.pontiacarevicariate.org. The registration deadline is October 18.

You are the hands and feet of Christ...so come and be nurtured so that you can better minister to God's People! ✱

Members:

Parishes

- Christ the Redeemer, Orion Township
- St. Damien of Molokai, Pontiac
- Sacred Heart, 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

Vicar's Voice

Dear Friends in the Pontiac Area Church,

This past summer we welcomed a new regional bishop, three new pastors, a newly ordained associate pastor and the new principal of Holy Family Regional School to the Pontiac Area Vicariate. I hope that you'll have a chance to meet and greet Bishop Arturo Cepeda to our area as well as Fr. Frane Kolaj at St. Paul Albanian, Fr. Brian Chabala at St. Irenaeus, Fr. Larry Sirokey at St. Benedict, Fr. Stephen Pullis at St. Joseph and Mr. Jon Myers at Holy Family. We extend to them and to all new parish ministers in the vicariate a hearty and warm welcome. Change always presents challenges and its outcome is uncertain. So let us pray for all these communities experiencing change that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit to remain one in charity and steadfast in faith.

While there were changes of administration and pastoral leadership in our vicariate, there were no closures, clusters or mergers this summer. That is not

to say that there won't be any in the future since there already is a merged parish in Pontiac. When representatives of the Vicariate came together in June to formulate recommendations to the Archdiocese at the end of the Together in Faith II process, one particular statistic hung heavy over the future, namely, that in ten years there will be 100 fewer active priests (35% less) than today. Since there aren't enough priests today to provide a resident pastor for every parish, what will parish staffing look like a decade from now?

Vocations need to be a concern of the whole Church. While no major changes are on the horizon with regard to whom the Church will ordain, there are steps we can take now to help people maximize their reception of and response to God's call to serve in the Church, especially in the priesthood. At the vocations convocation this weekend at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, representatives of Vocation Committees from parishes across the Archdiocese met to discuss practical ideas and steps that

can be taken in parishes to foster vocations; and, to formulate an Archdiocesan Vocations Plan. Since the Archbishop is calling on each parish to have an active vocations committee, the Vicariate will be encouraging pastors and pastoral leadership to do so.

With children back in school, life in your parish has probably returned to its normal active self. As a Vicariate we will be focusing on helping parishes achieve their sacramental, strategic and sustainability goals. Emphasis will be placed on fleshing out the recommendations of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and our own programs of pastoral care for the sick and marriage enrichment. Encouraging youth and young adults to be active church members will be a priority. Likewise, we will be helping parishes to prepare for capital campaigns in 2012. May the Lord bless our efforts as we strive to be His people in this place and time. ✱

Fr. Stan Ulman
Vicar, Pontiac Area Vicariate

Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts

Are you ready to take the next step in your spiritual journey? Is there a nudging, that just won't go away? Worried about not having enough time to do more in ministry? Well, the answer might lie in the spiritual gifts discernment process.

The 4-week discernment process is not really about doing more, but rather doing more with God. By discerning your spiritual gifts you will be able to 'notice' the people and situations God is bringing to you—to create order, bring mercy, offer encouragement. The process is really about naming and claiming your gifts so you can live with greater purpose and intention.

As you will discover, it is not really about doing, so much as it is about being an instrument of vision, wisdom and compassion. Bring a few friends and find out for yourselves. There is no charge for this program so plan to join us at **St. Joseph Parish in Lake Orion on Thursdays, September 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 7-9 PM.** Please RSVP to the parish office at 248-693-0440 or e-mail mmartin@stjosephlakeorion.org. ✱

Together we mourn the recent loss of Fr. Dan Homan, O.S.B., the cherished founder and leader of the Subiaco Retreat House at the Benedictine Monastery in Oxford. Fr. Dan helped nourish and spiritually lead over 140,000 of our youth in the Archdiocese of Detroit and was the primary shepherd of the Agape Young Adult Community. He will be deeply missed. In celebration of his life we share this prayer found in his book "Benedict's Way."

Lord, my world drips with pleasures I take for granted. I am grateful for color, for loving touches, for music that reminds me of what is good and what is important. You look up at me from the eyes of a child, and you look down on me from the falling snow. One lifetime is hardly enough time to taste and see how good it all is. Give me the vigor to enjoy and enjoy well. Amen



Memorial contributions may be sent to the "Subiaco Raise the Roof Fund," St. Benedict Monastery, 2711 E Drahner Rd., Oxford, MI 48370.

Events and Programs In and Around the PAV

All are welcome at these PAV events. Call the number listed for more information.

Sacred Heart

3400 S. Adams, Auburn Hills
248.852.4170

- Eucharistic Adoration, starting Oct. 3 and every first Monday of the month (except holidays). Exposition begins following the 9 AM Mass and concludes with meditative harp music at 5 PM and Liturgy of the Hours and Benediction at 5:30 PM.
- Mass with Anointing of the Sick Friday, October 14, 9 AM

St. Andrew / PAV

1400 Inglewood, Rochester
248-651-7486

- **Mass and Reception to Meet Bishop Arturo Cepeda** Sunday, October 23, 5 PM Reception to follow. This is an event for the entire Vicariate.

St. Damien of Molokai

248.332.0283

- Anointing of the Sick After noon Mass on the first Wednesday of each month at the Shrine of St. Joseph, 400 South Blvd West, Pontiac.

St. John Fisher

3665 Walton Blvd., Auburn Hills
248.373.6457

- Anointing of the Sick—After 5:30PM Sat. & 10AM Sun. Mass Sep 24/25, Oct 29/30, Nov 26/27

- College courses leading to a Bachelors degree are offered at St. John Fisher. Next classes are “The Ministry of Administration” and “Sacrament: Sign and Symbol” Details at www.stjohnfisherparish.org

St. Mary of the Hills

2675 John R, Rochester Hills,
248.853.5390

- Parish Picnic, Sunday, Sept 18, noon to 4 PM
- “Couple Prayer Series” beginning Friday, Sept. 23, 7-9 PM. Experience first-hand why couples who pray together on a regular basis enjoy proven increases in every factor known to be key to a happy marriage. Visit www.coupleprayer.org or www.smoth.org, for information and to register.
- Mass of Anointing: 7 PM on Monday December 5, 2011 and Monday, March 26, 2012

St. Joseph

715 N. Lapeer Rd. Lake Orion,
248.693.0440

- Mass of Anointing: 11AM on Saturday, October 15, 2011 and Saturday, April 14, 2012

Archdiocese of Detroit

- Mass for those with disabilities Sunday Sept. 18, 11 AM at

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Archbishop Allen Vigneron will preside. The Mass will be signed; there will be assisted hearing devices and worship material in Braille available for those who request them. RSVP at 313.237.5978 or to identify specific special needs.

- Catholic Women’s Conference Friday, Oct 28, 6:30 PM to Sat. Oct 29, 3:00 PM. Best Western Sterling Inn, Sterling Heights. Details at www.aodwomensministry.org or 313.237.4683.

St. Mary Retreat House

775 W. Drahner Rd., Oxford
248.628.3894

- “Exploring Women’s Spirituality in the New Testament” with Sr. Arlene Kosmatka, OP. Sept. 21, 9AM-2PM.
- “Living from the Heart: Finding Balance in Chaos” with Dr. Patricia Schmidt, DO. Sept. 29, 9AM-2PM.

Both retreats are \$20 and include lunch, beverages, and program.

Holy Family Golf Outing

- Monday, Sept. 26, 2011 at Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester. Details at www.holyfam.org. Search word: “Golf”



Agape Young Adult Community

Our PAV Agape Community offers a wide variety of spiritual, social, and service events that are all peer led: BY young adults, FOR young adults age 18-35 years old...and ARE WE GROWING! We currently have nine ministry teams made up of 4-18 young adult leaders each that are planning and executing a very busy calendar of events!

While all of our Agape members remain dedicated to their home PAV parishes, they also enjoy connecting, building up, and growing our young adult community. Ten couples have met and subsequently married through this ministry! It is good for our young people to find each other and build friendships with others who share their interests and values.

For more information on these and other events, “Like Us” on Facebook at “Agape Community Main Page” or visit our website. *

Upcoming Agape Events

- ✦ Fall Retreat Sept. 23-25
- ✦ Monthly Agape Mass: 7 PM on the 2nd Sunday of each month at St. John Fisher.
- ✦ Coffee & Conversation, 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at Caribou Coffee (Walton/Adams) in Rochester Hills at 7:30 PM
- ✦ Sacred Hour at Sacred Heart every Monday night at 7:00 PM.

**Online at
agapecommunity.net**

Members:

Religious Communities

- Dominican Sisters of Peace
- St. Benedict Monastery

Chaplaincies

- Crittenton Hospital
- Oakland County Jail & Outreach Ministry
- Oakland County Juveniles
- POH Medical Center
- St. Joseph Mercy Oakland

Nursing Homes

- Lake Orion
- Sanctuary at Bellbrook
- Oakland County Medical Care Facility
- Lourdes Senior Community

Oakland County

- Agape Young Adult Community
- Catholic Community Response Team
- Catholic Social Services
- Guest House
- St. Mary’s Retreat House

PAV Website:

www.pontiacareavariate.org

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