

WINTER 2012



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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## Together In Faith Paves Path for Change

The Archdiocese of Detroit recognizes the need to frequently review and adjust how it is achieving its mission of Sharing Christ in and through the Church, especially given the continuously changing demographics of the metropolitan Detroit area.

To this end, all ten Pontiac Area Vicariate parishes have spent serious effort over the past nine months participating in the AoD's Together in Faith II (TiF II) initiative. The TiF II initiative is a continuation of the parish, vicariate and Archdiocese self-assessment and planning activity first begun in 2004 with Adam Cardinal Maida's "Together in Faith I."

TiF II involved the engagement of four to five key members of each parish collected into local planning groups that represented about ten different parishes. Over 1500 AoD parishioners have participated!

These planning groups, facilitated by central staff members from the Archdiocese, reviewed pertinent demographic and financial data, parish and Archdiocese resource data, and standard questions, guidelines, and templates. They discussed amongst themselves and their parishes the issues and concerns apparent from their review of the data and then discerned appropriate recommenda-

tions for how these issues would best be addressed within their planning group.

The recommendations are generally one of three types. They may be sacramental mission-driving recommendations that focus on identifying and sharing best practices and resources among parishes within the planning group. They may be strategic and support the implementation of the seven Archdiocesan Pastoral Council pastoral priorities:

- Evangelization and Catechesis
- Christian Service & Outreach

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## CCRT Serves Those Most In Need in the PAV

Greetings from the Catholic Community Response Team! The holiday season is upon us and we are reminded how thankful we are for the blessings all of you have provided for the needy and vulnerable of our area church.

Thanks to you, over the past 12 months the Catholic Community Response Team has helped over 1200 adults and children with food, clothing, housing, utility payments, and various other essential needs.

Your support is appreciated beyond words and yet we know that this year the need will be

greater. Many of the State assistance programs have been cut off or decreased making the dependence on charitable help more important than ever. Over the last twelve months we have had requests for over 4000 services.

A brief summary of services provided in the past year:

Food orders	1477
Clothing orders	625
Household /Furniture	452
Bike Program	59
Identification Docs	123
Grooming Supplies	661
Rent support requests*	255

Utility Requests*	154
Eyeglasses	26
Other	331

\*Not all rent and utility requests are funded.

Our overhead expenses are primarily covered by a Parish Empowerment grant from the Archdiocese and the rest from PAV parish subsidies. This means that 100% of your donation will go directly to someone in need. Thank you for your generous support. \*

Barbara J. Williams  
 Director

### 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.*

CCRT needs your help! Our requests for basic aid are way up, and our resources are down. Any amount you can send to help the truly needy in our own Vicariate is much appreciated!

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

## 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

Since we're half way into Advent, you've probably stumbled over "and with our Spirit!" several times at Mass already. The new Roman Missal was introduced in our parishes the first Sunday of Advent and will take getting used to. I hope the new responses and prayers aren't too difficult for you to master and that after a few months they'll flow as easily as the former ones. I know that this will be a challenging time for priests and music directors as they adjust to new patterns of speech and music melodies. So please be kind and attentive. In spite of the changes, the Eucharist remains as the central act of worship that we give God each week. An octogenarian parishioner of mine recently commented that it's easy to get into a rut and not pay attention to what's going on. Perhaps the changes will wake us up to understand the Mass better and participate in it more fully and actively.

One change in the new Roman Missal that caught my attention was

the designation for the feast that we will be celebrating on December 25th, namely the Nativity of the Lord. Although Christmas is still there in parentheses, it's interesting to see how the naming of the feast day refers to the birth of Jesus in a way that the word Christmas does not. I wonder how many people are oblivious to the fact that Christmas is about God entering into our time and history as a baby born of Mary of Nazareth. Not that calling the feast "The Nativity of the Lord" will automatically change that, but as my parishioner noted it will force us to pay more attention.

Advent calls us to wake up and pay attention. Pay attention to God revealing Himself to us in the ordinary moments of our lives. It may come through the smile of a child or the request of an elderly family member. It may come amid the chaos of sickness, job loss, or family division. It may touch us in the quiet of prayer, the awe of nature, or the expression of love and friendship. The Lord present to us

will bring us peace and fill us with joy. Take advantage of your parish's penance services, anointing of the sick opportunities, prayer services and projects to help others as a way to become alert and attentive to the Lord coming into your life. Wait on the Lord! Prepare a straight path for Him.

I'm grateful to Kathy Hasty for organizing the Vicariate workshop on being a companion to the dying. Sr. Mary Finn and Fr. Mike Vershaeve made wonderful presentations and provided great insights to ministering to those who are sick or dying. It was wonderful that all the parishes of the Pontiac Area Vicariate had parishioners participating in the workshop. What we are concerned about is reflected in how we spend our time. The time we spent at the workshop shows that we are concerned for the sick among us. \*

Peace and joy,  
Fr. Stan

### Five Women, Five Journeys

Christ the Redeemer Parish  
2700 Waldon Rd, Lake Orion, 48360  
Thursday, January 26, 2012  
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Enrich a winter night with this panel presentation of the faith journeys of women from five different cultures and faith traditions. Call Nancy at 248-391-1621 for more details.



*(Together In Faith, Continued from page 1)*

- Youth and Young Adults
- Lay Leadership
- Stewardship & Administration
- Catholic Schools
- Vocations

The recommendations may also be sustainable and focus on the best use of parish resources including choices to close or merge parishes.

### Save the Date! PAV Spring Assembly

Tuesday, March 6, 2012  
7:00–9:00 PM  
St. Paul Albanian Parish  
525 W Auburn Rd., Rochester Hills

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR**

Full details will be announced in January in your parish bulletin and the next PAV newsletter



### PAVAL Coed Volleyball Teams Forming Now

The 21st season of coed volleyball begins January 8. Matches are played at Notre Dame Preparatory High School on Sunday evenings.

To find or form a team, contact Mike Zabab at [pavalvb@gmail.com](mailto:pavalvb@gmail.com).

Let the games begin!

Our Pontiac Area Vicariate planning group representatives are to be commended for their tireless efforts to wade through the tedious and frustrating data, the long evenings, and the planning process. They have demonstrated the collaborative strength of the PAV and we look forward to assisting in the implementation of their plans to strengthen our parishes. \*

Steve Lawless  
APC Representative

## Calendar of Events in the PAV

### Advent Penance Services

Sacred Heart, 248.852.4170  
3400 Adams Rd. 48326  
Monday, December 12, 5:00 PM

St. Andrew, 248.651.7486  
1400 Inglewood 48307  
Monday, December 19, 7:30 PM

St. Damien, 248.332.0283  
Monday, December 19, 6:30 PM  
at St. Michael church (Bilingual)  
120 Lewis, Pontiac 48342

St. Irenaeus, 248.651.9595  
771 Old Perch Rd. 48309  
Tuesday, December 20, 7:30 PM

St. John Fisher, 248.373.6457  
3665 Walton Blvd. 48363  
Tuesday, December 20, 7:15 PM

St. Joseph, 248.693.0440  
715 N. Lapeer Rd., 48362  
Monday, December 19, 7:00 PM

St. Mary of the Hills, 248.853.5390  
2675 John R, 48307  
Tuesday, December 20, 7:00 PM

### Sacrament of Anointing

St. John Fisher, Auburn Hills  
5:30 PM Sat and 10 AM Sunday on  
Dec 26/27, Jan 30/31, Feb 27/28

St. Joseph, Lake Orion  
Mass of Anointing  
Saturday, April 14, 2012  
11:00 AM with luncheon to follow

St. Mary of the Hills, Roch Hills  
Mass of Anointing  
Monday, March 26, 2012, 7:00 PM

St. Damien of Molokai, Pontiac  
After noon Mass, first Wed. of  
month at the Shrine of St. Joseph,  
400 South Blvd West

### Additional Opportunities

**Holy Family All School  
Christmas Prayer Service**  
Tuesday, December 20, 10 AM  
St. Andrew Church

**Degree Eligible College Courses**  
Offered at St. John Fisher. Upcom-  
ing classes: "Sacrament: Sign and

Symbol" (January) and "Liturgy  
and the Liturgical Seasons" (Mar)  
[www.stjohnfisherparish.org](http://www.stjohnfisherparish.org).

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebrations at St. Damien

December 12, 2011  
6 AM Mañanitas at St. Michael  
7 AM Mass at St Michael  
(Spanish) Bishop Cepeda presiding  
9 AM Presentation "La Virgen de  
Guadalupe y la Familia His-  
pana" (Spanish) by Fr. Roberto  
Figueroa from the Archdiocese of  
Monterrey, NL. México  
5 PM Rosary at St. Vincent de Paul  
6 PM Mass at St. Vincent de Paul  
(Spanish, bilingual liturgical aids)

### St. Mary Retreat House

775 W. Drahner Rd., Oxford  
248.628.3894

"Jesus and Inner Peace," a 3-day  
spiritual retreat with Fr. Alex  
Kratz, OFM. January 13-15.  
[www.stmarysretreathouse.org](http://www.stmarysretreathouse.org).

## Pastoral Care of the Sick Initiative Update

Nearly 50 people, representing all ten vicariate parishes, recently attended the Second Annual PAV Formation Day for Lay Ministers to the Sick. Presenters Sr. Mary Finn, HVM, and Fr. Mike Verschaeve shared thoughts on "Companioning the Dying on Their Journey Home." Remarks on the evaluation forms summed up the feelings about the day..."wonderful"... "put me more at ease with my ministry"... "informative and helpful"... "enjoyed the practical advice"... "confirms my calling to do this and refreshes and refuels me"... "enjoyed the wisdom of the presenters and my table-mates"... "I feel re-energized ---thanks!"

As regular readers of this newsletter know, improving pastoral care services in our vicariate is a top priority. Providing ongoing formation for those who minister to the sick and dying, as representatives of the community of faith, is just one way that the PAV is putting this focus into action. If you are interested in getting involved with pastoral care, contact your parish or [admin@pontiacarevicariate.org](mailto:admin@pontiacarevicariate.org). ❀



Check out our AMAZING Retreat Program for 18-35 year olds!



Winter Retreat

January 27-29, 2012

Subiaco Retreat House, Oxford

Summer Retreat

August 11-12, 2012

Colombiere Center, Clarkston

Fall Retreat

September 21-23, 2012

Capuchin Retreat Center, Washington



[agapecommunity.net](http://agapecommunity.net)

Contact Lisa Brown  
[abad@oakland.edu](mailto:abad@oakland.edu), 248-370-2189

### 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.pontiacarevicariate.org](http://www.pontiacarevicariate.org)

#### Email:

[admin@pontiacarevicariate.org](mailto:admin@pontiacarevicariate.org)