

FALL 2010



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 Multicultural Diversity Fair Happens November 7

Cultural leaders and advocates are invited to share a glimpse of their culture with the PAV at a Diversity Fair on November 7 at St. Mary of the Hills parish. The day will begin with Mass at 2:30 PM followed by the fair from 3:30 to 6 PM.

A follow-up to last year's successful Hispanic Gathering, the purpose of this event is to celebrate and share the PAV's cultural diversity. Since many different cultures are represented in our parishes, the Diversity Fair seeks to provide a venue for as many as possible to showcase their Catholic heritage. The event is being planned by the Vicariate Pastoral Council.

It's not too late to sign up to participate! Event planners are seeking:

Nine Speakers from different cultural backgrounds to give a five-minute presentation covering their culture's immigration story, values, current issues, and areas where they could use or provide help.

Twelve Booth Operators with tables showcasing flags, games, pictures, heroes, patron saints, legends, and stories from their cultures. Booths may also provide food specialties, served in "ticket" portions. Food tickets will be sold to participants and exchanged at booths for food. This is intended to be a sharing of cultures and not a fundraiser.

Nine Performers/Groups from different cultural backgrounds to perform 5-minute songs, skits, or dances.

There are many wonderful cultures within our church – but only limited openings for this event. The available opportunities will be distributed on a first-come basis with the intent to include as many cultures as possible.

Interested parties can find more information and an online registration form at www.pontiacareavicariate.org. You may also register by calling Darlene Lawless at 248.391.8284. Participants will be contacted and oriented to the schedule and facility in September. *

Please check your parish bulletins in October for more details on the PAV Diversity Fair!

Agape Young Adult Community

Fusion Young Adult Ministry has a new name, a new structure and a new spirit!

Pronounced ä-gə-pā, our new ministry name is an ancient Greek word for unconditional, selfless love. It also was the name of the community meal originating in the early church in association with the Eucharist shared as a sign of love and fellowship. And now, Agape also is the name of our welcoming community of young adult believers in the Pontiac Area Vicariate!

Targeting those 18-35 years old, Agape offers a wide variety of spiritual, social, and service events that are all peer led. 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, visit www.oucampusministry.com or Facebook "Agape Young Adult Community." *



Upcoming Agape Activities

- ✦ Fall Retreat Sept. 24-26
- ✦ Monthly Agape Mass: 7 PM on 2nd Sundays 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 of the Hills every Monday night at 7:00 PM



Developed by the Pontiac Area Vicariate, ACTS is six-hour workshop designed to train lay ministers for voluntary service. Presentations include a strong foundation in parish ministry and practical communication skills.

New this session! Catechists attending all day will receive certification for completing two topics: "Catechesis and the Call of Catechist" and "Creative Methods to Foster Faith Growth." Because of the nature of the workshop, we request catechists register for the entire day.

Saturday, October 9, 2010 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM
Sanctuary at Bellbrook, 873 W Avon Rd., Rochester Hills, 48309

Name: _____ Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Parish: _____

Return this form and check for \$10.00 (\$30 if outside the Pontiac Area Vicariate) to: PAV/ACTS, 3665 Walton Blvd., Auburn Hills, 48326. For further information please email Nancy Mason Bordley at Parishserv@aol.com or visit www.pontiacareavicariate.org.

Members:

Parishes

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

Oakland County Jail Ministry — "Call to Serve"

Oakland County Jail Ministry needs you! Jail ministry offers the opportunity to serve and learn from those marginalized and often abandoned and alienated. We promise that Hebrews 13:3 will become a new reality: "Be as mindful of prisoners as if you were sharing their imprisonment." Catholic volunteers are needed in several areas:

Catholic Prayer and Eucharistic Services held Monday and Thursday evenings. Contact Pierre Flajole-Pierre at pflajole@att.net.

Jail Bible Study is coordinated by Mary Beth Schneiderman, 248-514-1090, missmaryb@comcast.net or Cherry Ludiciani, 248-630-6616, diudic@aol.com.

Jail Chaplaincy Office Assistance needed during the day. 12,000

written requests come into the Chaplain's Office in the course of a year. To volunteer, contact Rita Reyes, 248-858-5475 on Thursdays between 10:00AM -2:00PM.

One-on-One Visiting Inmates is coordinated by Don Michau, dmichau7@hotmail.com or Patricia Anderson, 248-601-3919, thecityhouse@comcast.net.

Seasoned volunteers mentor new volunteers in our jail setting. If you would like more information, please contact one of the local Catholic volunteers listed above. The Oakland County Jail houses 1,700 prisoners on a daily basis and 25,000 in the course of a year. It is located in the Oakland County Service Center at 1201 North Telegraph in Pontiac.

Donations are desperately needed due to the loss of financial support from the Archdiocese of Detroit at the end of 2009. Please help keep our much needed jail ministry and outreach programs viable. Donations may be sent to: Jail and Outreach Ministry, 46352 Woodward Ave., P O Box 1366, Pontiac, MI 48343-1366. Attention: Peggy Devaney, IHM. Make checks payable to: Jail and Outreach Ministry and write Oakland County Jail Ministry (OCJM) on the memo line.

Thank you for your support and generosity. We have more needs than ever related to our economy, job losses, and budget cuts. Pray as well, as you join us in Catholic Jail Ministry. ✱

Vicar's Voice

Is your parish more strategic, sustainable and sacramental than it was five years ago?

What plans does your parish have to share Christ in and through the Church? More than five years ago all of our parishes were involved in an intense self-assessment/goal setting process entitled "Together in Faith." Each parish looked at its five-year trend of sacramental activity, finances, and services to parishioners and community and projected where it would be in the next five years. Vicariate Pastoral Councils were given the task of bringing all this information together and formulating a plan of action that would best use available resources for the mission and vision of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their local areas. The Archdiocese received these Vicariate plans and tracked their progress.

At the time, many people looked upon the process merely as plans to close, cluster or merge parishes in view of diminishing priests, parish membership and financial resources. While this did happen as a result of the process (in our Vicariate St. Damien was formed from the three Pontiac parishes), there was a broader vision that sought to engage parish members in actively preparing for and participating in

the future of their faith communities. The Pontiac Area Vicariate looked to improve youth and young adult ministry, educate people about stewardship, train leaders for lay ministry, provide for Catholic Schools, serve the growing Hispanic community, respond to the basic needs of the poor, ensure pastoral care for the sick, and have parishes share personnel and material resources. Since those plans were formulated we have experienced an economic meltdown and an exodus of jobs and inhabitants from our area. Our Archdiocese had a change of leadership.

Nonetheless we have been very successful in fulfilling many of the objectives that were presented in 2005. Catholic outreach in Pontiac and the training of lay leaders is ongoing through the Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT) and ACTS; a plan for the Pastoral Care of the Sick is currently being implemented; attention is being paid not only to the Hispanic community in our midst but also the diversity of our communities; our parish youth groups participate together in worship, service, and fellowship; and Genesis Ministries strives to address the needs of young adults. There is still much to do.

The original report foresaw three obstacles in implementing any Vicariate plan. The first was a denial of any immediacy to deal with the reality. The second was a sense of parochialism that doesn't see the bigger picture of a Vicariate or an Archdiocese and the need to collaborate with other parishes. The third was the difficulty of engaging youth and young adults in the ministry of a "graying" church.

Sad to say the challenges presented by these obstacles remain. However I see great cooperation among the professional staffs of our parishes and an eagerness to help and support each other. I see commitment from our Vicariate Pastoral Council members to address the needs of the local area church and encourage the engagement of their parishes. As phase two of Together in Faith is rolled out by the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (see article on page 3) and as parishes across the Archdiocese conduct capital campaigns, lay leaders in all of our parishes, together with their priests and staffs, will once again be called on to pray, plan and work together. May the Spirit bless us with a fruitful ministerial year! ✱

Peace and joy,
Fr. Stan

Formation Day for Lay Pastoral Ministers

“...And people brought to Jesus a paralytic lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Courage, child, your sins are forgiven...’” (Mt. 9:2)

This beautiful Gospel passage reminds us once again that the healing presence of Christ is often experienced within the context of Christian community—when those who care about the sick person are gathered around him or her, to pray and to minister God’s loving care for the person. This is one of the beautiful and powerful ways that we as a Christian community continue the mission and ministry of Jesus, as we are called to do. And so we remain committed to the very important work of pastoral care of the sick in our midst.

The Pastoral Care of the Sick Implementation Committee has been meeting all summer to lay the groundwork for some important next steps of our pastoral care initiative. Committee members have met with chaplains and spiritual care coordinators from all four vicariate hospitals to try to understand and

assess their pastoral care needs, and to ascertain their present resources in terms of parish partnerships and types of ministries already in place. A clearer picture of underserved facilities and areas of need has emerged, which we can now strategize more effectively for. And relationships with chaplains and spiritual care coordinators are being built which will definitely enhance future ministerial collaboration.

The importance of nurturing our volunteer lay pastoral care ministers to the sick, and providing them with some ongoing formation and education, has been identified as a vital next step. To that end, we have planned a **Day of Reflection/Formation for our Volunteer Lay Ministers to the Sick**. This will be held on **Saturday, October 30, from 9 AM to 1:30 PM** at St. John Fisher Parish. There is no charge, and lunch will be provided.

This session will consist of reflection on our experiences of ministry to the sick, both those that have been particularly meaningful to us, and those that have been challenging to us. We will reflect on

these together in the light of faith. Other components of the day will include a presentation by Sr. Mary Finn on Pastoral Care in a Time of Crisis, and a personal reflection on that same topic by Fr. Mike Verschaeve. The day will end at 1:30 p.m. with a blessing and re-commissioning of the ministers.

If you minister to the sick on behalf of your parish as a home-bound Communion minister, or you take Communion to residents of a nursing home, assisted living center, or hospital, or you sit with dying patients so that they are not alone, or you minister in some other capacity to the sick, this day is for you. Please join us so that we can minister to you! To register, contact Kathy Hasty at 248-693-0440 x211, or email khasty@stjoseph-lakeorion.org. You can also register online at www.pontiacarevicariate.org

You are the hands and feet of Christ...please come and be nurtured so that you can minister even more effectively to God’s people! ✱

Mary Martin,
Pastoral Minister, St. Joseph Parish

10 Great Dates

That will put the **SIZZLE** back into your marriage.
St. Mary of the Hills
2675 John R, Rochester Hills
Saturday evenings, 6:15 PM
Sept. 18 thru Nov. 20
\$30 per couple
Appropriate for all ages and stages of marriage. Come and join the fun! Info and RSVP: dnaege02@aol.com, 248.683.2514

The Sacrament of Anointing of will be available at these parishes.

Sacred Heart of the Hills
3400 S. Adams, Auburn Hills
Friday, November 5, at 9 AM

St. John Fisher Chapel
3665 E Walton, Auburn Hills
After 5:30 PM Saturday and 10:00 AM Sunday Masses:
Sept. 25/26, Oct. 30/31, Nov. 27/28

St. Joseph, Lake Orion
715 Lapeer Rd., Lake Orion
Saturday, October 16, at 11 AM

Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts With Sherry Weddell

Monday, Nov. 15 from 7-9 PM
St. Joseph Church, Lake Orion
In Myrick Hall

What is the difference between a natural talent and a charism? Join us as we explore the spiritual gifts and the call God has for each of us. All are welcome. Please RSVP at 248-693-0440. Free will offering taken at event.

Together In Faith Phase II: An Archdiocese of Detroit Pastoral Plan

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) serves as the primary lay consultative group to the Archbishop of Detroit. Comprised of representatives from every vicariate as well as the AOD, this group has been at work creating a new “Together In Faith” (TIF) Phase II Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan.

The APC began its work this year by reviewing the top 17 focus areas from TIF Phase I and grouping them into APC Subcommittees that are tasked with drafting goals, objectives, and action plans. After review by the vicariates and other key groups, these plans will be implemented throughout the Archdiocese. The committees are: Christian Service & Outreach, Evangelization & Catechesis, Leadership, Stewardship & Administration, and Youth and Young Adult. There is also a subcommittee to focus on Catholic schools and another on pastoral planning within the city of Detroit. Regional Assemblies in early 2011 will inform and enable direct discussion and feedback. Stay tuned for more updates on this truly exciting work! ✱

Steve Lawless, Representative to the APC from the Pontiac Area Vicariate

Members:

Religious Communities

- Dominican Sisters of Peace
- St. Benedict Monastery

Chaplaincies

- Crittenton Hospital
- Oakland County Jail Ministry
- 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

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

PAV Website:

www.pontiacarevicariate.org

Email:

admin@pontiacarevicariate.org