



Pastoral Ministers' Association Meeting Minutes November 21, 2006 Meeting held at Guest House

The meeting began at 10:05 AM with a prayer led by Jan Hall and introduction of first-time attendees Mary Andrews (Chaplain at Mercy Bellbrook) and Joe Stronk (VP of Development, Guest House). Jan thanked Guest House and Dorothy Kowalski for hosting the meeting.

Ice Breaker Activity:

Jan used the sign-in sheets to randomly pick people to answer the question "What do you need right now?" Responses included: balance, patience, clarity, sleep, motivation, joy, family.

Presentation "Dealing With Difficult People"

Guest speaker Lynne Thomas, a psychotherapist with a private practice in Grosse Pointe Farms, began her talk by explaining that a lot of her clients need help in learning to forgive. She used the concept of "shadow side" as a way to understand the fact that we can't change what we don't see. Others see our shadows/faults, but we are often blind to these attributes in ourselves.

Lynne then outlined four types of difficult people and gave insights into them and suggestions on how to most effectively deal with employees, co-workers or volunteers who exhibit these traits.

- **Know-It-All:** oblivious to others; has problems with communications and boundaries; prideful; self-righteous. Suggestions: group settings must be structured ("everyone has two minutes to speak"); set controls; don't make them leaders; best working alone.
- **Critic:** negative; hurtfully honest, condemning; finds fault; can break your spirit. Critics have low self-esteem, are stuck and unforgiving. Have limited relationship skills and can't accept criticism. Suggestions: Keep interactions short and sweet – listen-thank-leave; don't divulge much to critics; don't react emotionally.
- **Controller:** always in charge; bad-tempered; boundary problems; love is conditional; bad social and communication skills. Suggestions: Structure boundaries of situation; resist urge to rebel; keep calm and level-headed.
- **Troublemaker:** creates dissension; drives good people away; likes to fight and gossip; spreads rumors; destructive. Troublemakers are the most dangerous to an organization as they are often angry and emotionally bankrupt. Suggestions: avoid; be quiet around; set boundaries; keep them very busy.

All of these people are unteachable insofar as they are resistant to subtle suggestions. Lynne recommended prayer as a way help dealing with difficult people, both for the individuals in questions and for ourselves. She concluded her talk by touching on the mentally ill and addicted people who often gravitate to churches. These people generally need to be watched closely if they are in your facilities and sometimes referred to social service or law enforcement agencies.

Collaborative/Networking

- ACTS: A Call to Serve update – Nancy Mason Bordley gave on report on the first training session held on a Friday evening and Saturday in September at St. John Fisher. There were 19 participants representing three parishes. Comments from this group are included following these minutes.

Two more ACTS sessions are scheduled, the first on three Thursday evenings in January at St. Mary

of the Hills and the other an all-day Saturday session at St. Benedict. Nancy urged all present to recruit attendees for these upcoming classes as ACTS is our PAV training program.

- Pastoral Care of the Sick -- Kathy Hasty, Ann Suziedelis and Mary Martin gave a presentation on the work of this committee. After briefly reviewing the membership and methodology they used, the committee's recommendations were detailed. They include:
 - Increase opportunities to celebrate the sacrament of anointing
 - Provide more education on anointing
 - Seek input from the laity/parishioners/priests
 - Identify gaps in pastoral care in the PAV
 - Improve recruitment and training of pastoral care givers
 - Improve networking and communication between AOD/PAV/parishes/facilities/hospitals, etc.
 - Form implementation committee to address next phase

The full report of the Pastoral Care committee has been distributed to the PMA. Future direction on pastoral care of the sick will be taken over by the implementation committee.

- October PMA meeting – Sue Buratto gave a brief recap of the October PMA meeting and said that the Planning Team will send a letter to our speaker both thanking him for his time and expressing some concerns on the tone of his presentation. Sue asked for feedback from the group on items to include in this letter.

Vicar's comments

Fr. Jerry reminded everyone that minutes from the Vicars' meetings and other AOD committees are distributed to the PMA. He urged the group to read them and keep informed on the discussions and decisions that are ongoing regarding clustering and priest assignment. He said that the sacramental issues will be the hardest to deal with as the declining number of priests causes parishes to make adjustments.

The VPC will have a presentation on the Fisherman's Fund at their next meeting. This Fund is available to help defray expenses for those studying for the priesthood.

Updates

- Catholic Social Services of Oakland County has a program to mentor children whose parents are in jail. Contact Marge Huggard for more information.
- Leadership for Tomorrow is coming back as an online course. Contact Rakhi Roy for details.
- There will be an AIDS service at the Cathedral on December 3rd.

Announcements

The meeting ended with a closing prayer and lunch at 12:10 PM.

Future PMA Meetings

- **Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at St. Joseph Hospital**
Topic: Children's Ministry – Revitalizing Religious Education
- Monday, February 26, 2007, 7:00 PM PAV Assembly
St. Andrew Activities Building Speaker: Fr. Clarence Williams on Racism
- Tuesday, March 13, 2007 at Notre Dame Prep/Marist
Lenten Retreat: Focus on faith and belief; other religions (Islam)
- Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at St. Michael Ten year vision for the PAV
- Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at St. John Fisher, Planning for 2007-2008/Survey

Attendance:

Michael Harning	Archdiocese of Detroit
Carol Jadach	Archdiocese of Detroit
Marge Huggard	C.S.S. of OaklandCounty
Barb Williams	CCRT Office
Henry Mucha	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Lisa Pratt	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Karen Swietlik	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Barbara Jean Pelak, OP	Dominican Sisters
Rakhi Roy	Genesis Ministries/Woodward Corridor
Sandy Favrow	Marist Academy, Pontiac
Diana Atkins	Marist Academy, St. Benedict campus
Mary Andrews	Mercy Bellbrook
Diane Guappone	North Oakland Medical Center
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Pat Malone, RSM	Pontiac Catholic Community
Chris Talbot	Pontiac Catholic Community
Ann Meyers	Sacred Heart of the Hills Parish
Ann Thomas	Sacred Heart of the Hills Parish
Nancy Clancy	St. Andrew Parish
Joe Soncrant	St. Andrew Parish
Bonnie Banaszek	St. Benedict Parish
Maria Geryk	St. Benedict Parish
Tom Kuehnemund	St. Benedict Parish
Pat Busch	St. Irenaeus Parish
Frank Pollie	St. Irenaeus Parish
Paul Borucki	St. John Fisher Chapel U.P.
Lisa Brown	St. John Fisher Chapel U.P.
Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher Chapel U.P.
Sue Buratto	St. John Fisher Chapel U.P.
Mary Ann Dixon, OP	St. John Fisher Chapel U.P.
Nancy Mason Bordley	St. John Fisher Chapel U.P.
Theresa Darga, OSF	St. Joseph Elementary School
Jon Myers	St. Joseph Elementary School
Ann Suziedelis	St. Joseph Mercy Oakland
Peggy Bartz	St. Joseph Parish
Ralph Besterwitch	St. Joseph Parish
Debbie Bloomgren	St. Joseph Parish
Kathy Hasty	St. Joseph Parish
Mary Martin	St. Joseph Parish
Kim Myers	St. Joseph Parish
Jan Hall	St. Mary of the Hills Parish
Judith Kozlowski	St. Mary of the Hills Parish
Stan Ulman	St. Mary of the Hills Parish
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian Parish

**Vicariate Report
ACTS Program
September 29, 20, 2006**

19 Participants

Parishes Represented

St. Benedict, St. Irenaeus, St. John Fisher

Evaluation *The following average evaluations on a range from 1 – 5*

The What of Ministry	4.6
The Who of Ministry	4.7
The How of Ministry	
Communication	4.8
Pastoral Visiting	5
Leadership	4.8
Liturgy	<u>4.7</u>
Overall Average	4.8

<p><u>Most beneficial</u></p> <p>Defining ministry //</p> <p>Excellent overview, easy relaxed style, handouts, Perspective on types of ministry Enlightenment, discernment, stretching yourself Understanding of today's critical needs What & how of pastoral ministry, what it entails</p> <p>Speakers insights & experiences of presenters ///</p> <p>Discussion //</p> <p>Communication, listening / speaking ///// Better understanding of lay person's role in liturgy Easing my anxiety about presiding</p>	<p><u>Would have liked more information on</u></p> <p>Communication, listening, communication sheets Body language Repetition of behavior while stretching & attending Ongoing training List of parish opportunities for additional classes & ongoing training More time// Dealing with difficult personalities Laity involvement in the church More time for how-to Choice of participation in at least two workshops How to do a communion service Leadership roles, how to facilitate a meeting Resources for continuing on our own Can everyone attend all three how to workshops?</p>
<p><u>Remarks</u></p> <p><i>Content</i></p> <p>Insightful! Enriching for personal relationships. Thought provoking and very interesting. Informative materials, valuable and enriching. Enjoyed every moment. Lots of information to process Informative and clarifying</p> <p><i>Time</i></p> <p>Typically this would have looked too long, but not with this class, informative and interesting Could this be done in one day? Probably needed more time A little more time for table sharing</p> <p><i>Process</i></p> <p>Use the military method</p>	<p><u>Remarks</u></p> <p><i>Suggestions</i></p> <p>More specific places in the book to enter notes More time for the who and how. Communication could also include the liturgy. New and experienced liturgy participants confusing</p> <p><i>Kudos</i></p> <p>Leaders very inspiring and so non-judgmental Great facilitators Well done. Thank you Excellent. Beneficial Absolutely more than I expected. Very well presented.</p>