



Pastoral Ministers' Association Meeting Minutes September 18, 2007 Meeting held at St. Benedict Monastery

Kim Myers, PMA Planning Team member opened the meeting at 10:05 AM with a prayer and welcome to all present. She said that the theme for this year's PMA meetings is "Hospitality – The Presence of Christ in Others."

Ice Breaker Activity

Kim suggested that everyone mingle and share with a someone they didn't know their answer to the question, "How have you been the presence of Christ to others in the past week?" Some people then told their stories to the entire group.

Presentation

Fr. John Martin Shimkus, a member of the Benedictine community, conducted a mini-retreat based on the book "Radical Hospitality" by Fr. Dan Homan and Lonni Collins Pratt. He began by telling us a little bit about himself and the history of the Benedictine community, St. Benedict, and the Rules of Benedict. Fr. Shimkus explained that the concept of hospitality is central to their way of life and all guests are welcomed as Christ. We make room for guests in our lives as we make room for Christ.

In modern life the way hospitality is extended has changed from long ago. He explained that being open to others and showing a willingness to make contact with strangers or those in need are examples of hospitality today. Some other key aspects of hospitality include:

- The art of listening
- Preparing a place for guests
- Casting aside resentments
- We are all both guests and hosts

To conclude the retreat, everyone took quiet time to reflect on personal experiences of encountering "Christ in the other" and how we learn from those we love. A few people shared their thoughts with the group.

Collaborative/Networking

Pastoral Care of the Sick Implementation Committee update – Mary Martin gave an overview of the entire Pastoral Care development to date. Awareness started with information gathered during the Together In Faith process when it became apparent that parishes close to hospitals and other facilities were being overwhelmed with requests for anointing and other pastoral care visits. A survey of pastors and pastoral associates, hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living centers in the PAV was completed in 2006. It soon became obvious that another survey of individual parishioners would be needed to get a full picture of Pastoral Care needs.

Developed in conjunction with the Archdiocese, the individual survey is ready to go. A Spanish language version is also available. Mary explained that all parishes are being asked to obtain a minimum number of completed surveys in the first two weeks of October. The number has been determined by the AOD to ensure that the results will be statistically significant. Vicariate Pastoral Council reps were given materials for their parishes, including bulletin and mass announcements, and have been asked to make sure the surveys are distributed and collected.

Data from the first and second surveys will be combined to get a complete picture of where the PAV stands with respect to meeting needs for anointing of the sick, communion service to those who cannot attend mass, etc. The AOD will analyze the results and issue a full report and recommendations early in 2008.

Fr. Jerry added that there is a good chance the PAV will be assigned a permanent deacon for Pastoral Care. He will let everyone know if and when this is finalized.

VPC Report – Bonnie Banaszek, PMA rep to the Vicariate Pastoral Council, reported that one of the goals of the VPC this year is to improve communication between parish councils and the VPC. The Vice-Chair of the VPC has developed a tool to chart progress on goals and objectives as the year progresses.

Vicar’s report

Fr. Jerry reported the following from the most recent Vicars’ meeting:

- Bishop Daniel Flores has been assigned to the three Vicariates with the highest Hispanic populations. These are the Pontiac Area, Southwest and Thumb Vicariates. He will also be Director of Hispanic Ministry for the AOD.
- The Together in Faith Tracking Committee is reviewing progress on the various Pastoral Plans.
- The new rules on the Tridentine mass were discussed. The general feeling is that the number of these masses currently being offered meets the need.

Fr Jerry encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming PAV Assembly on October 22 at Christ the Redeemer parish. The focus will be on Christian Service Coordination in the PAV and feature presentations by Marge Huggard from Catholic Social Services of Oakland County and Barbara Williams from the Catholic Community Response Team. Representatives and information from other human service providers will also be on hand. More information will be sent soon.

Announcements

- Joyce Hyttinen said that the Archdiocese will be sending a survey to all parishes to gather information on the growing number of requests for assistance across the area due to the current economic climate. She requested that pastors be on the lookout for these materials and make sure they are filled out.
- Mary Martin reminded the group that the annual Parish Leadership Conference will be on October 18 at St. Joseph parish. Information is on the web at <http://www.stjosephlakeorion.org/>.
- Jan Hall announced that St. Mary of the Hills is starting a couple’s prayer group and a marriage enrichment class. Details at <http://www.stmarysofthehills.org/>.
- Lisa Brown invited everyone to the Fusion Young Adult mass on October 7 that will be celebrated by Bishop Daniel Flores.
- Nancy Mason Bordley will conduct another ACTS lay volunteer ministry training session on September 29 at St. Irenaeus parish. More information at <http://www.pontiacarevicariate.org> under “Latest News.”
- Karen Swietlik said that Love INC, a multi-church service effort, will have their Bountiful Harvest Fundraiser on September 22nd

The meeting ended with a closing prayer and lunch at 12:20 PM.

Future PMA Meetings

- **PAV Assembly: Monday, October 22, 2007, Christ the Redeemer, 6:30 PM**
- Tuesday, November 20, 2007 - PMA meeting at Mercy Bellbrook, 10:00 AM
- Tuesday, January 15, 2008 - PMA meeting at St. Benedict Parish
- Tuesday, February 19, 2008 - PMA meeting at St. Joseph School
- Monday, March 31, 2008 - PAV Assembly at Sacred Heart of the Hills
- Tuesday, April 15, 2008 - PMA meeting at St. Mary of the Hills
- Tuesday, May 20, 2008 - PMA meeting at St. Paul Albanian

Attendance:

Tom Donahoo	Archdiocese of Detroit
Carol Jadach	Archdiocese of Detroit
Joyce Hyttinen	Archdiocese of Detroit
Georgene Wojciechowski	Archdiocese of Detroit
Barb Williams	CCRT
Fr. Joe Dailey	Christ the Redeemer Parish

Henry Mucha	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Lisa Pratt	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Karen Swietlik	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Rakhi Roy	Genesis Ministries/Woodward Corridor
Karen Hawver, SC	Holy Family Regional School
Marian Harvey, IHM	Lake Orion Nursing Home
Diana Atkins	Marist Academy, Lower Division
Sandy Favrow	Marist Academy, Pontiac
Mary Andrews	Mercy Bellbrook
Diane Guappone	North Oakland Medical Center
Fr. Maciej Pawlowski	Notre Dame Preparatory
Fr. Leon Olszowski, SM	Notre Dame Preparatory
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Oscar Catanaro	Pontiac Catholic Community
Lourdes Smith	Pontiac Catholic Community
Fr. Sean Sylvester	Pontiac Catholic Community
Fr. Albert Sescon	Pontiac Catholic Community
Kathy Fabian	St. Andrew Parish
Pat Metz	St. Andrew Parish
Fr. Tom Slowinski	St. Andrew Parish
Joe Soncrant	St. Andrew Parish
Rae Stumpf	St. Andrew Parish
Bonnie Banaszek	St. Benedict Parish
Fr. Tom Kuehnemund	St. Benedict Parish
Melanie Avila	St. Irenaeus Parish
Karen Geno	St. Irenaeus Parish
Fr. Frank Pollie	St. Irenaeus Parish
Terri Nelson	St. John Fisher Chapel U.P.
Paul Borucki	St. John Fisher Chapel U.P.
Lisa Brown	St. John Fisher Chapel U.P.
Fr. Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher Chapel U.P.
Sue Buratto	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
Sue Audette	St. Joseph Parish
Peggy Bartz	St. Joseph Parish
Fr. Anthony Camilleri	St. Joseph Parish
Kathy Galbraith	St. Joseph Parish
Kathy Hasty	St. Joseph Parish
Colleen Heacock	St. Joseph Parish
Mary Martin	St. Joseph Parish
Kim Myers	St. Joseph Parish
Fr. Mike Verschaeve	St. Joseph Parish
Peggy Casing	St. Mary of the Hills Parish
Jan Hall	St. Mary of the Hills Parish
Judy Kozlowski	St. Mary of the Hills Parish
Chris Kozlowski	St. Mary of the Hills Parish
Fr. Anton Kcira	St. Paul Albanian Parish