



Pastoral Ministers' Association Meeting Minutes May 19, 2009 Meeting held at Christ the Redeemer Parish

Kim Myers welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:05 AM. She began by summarizing the theme for this year which was, "Embracing Our Neighbor." She explained how the Planning Team had developed aspects of this idea at each PMA meeting. Planning Team members summarized the meetings as follows:

Meeting Date and Topic

September 16, 2008
Mini-Retreat at St. John Fisher
Speaker: Dr. Patricia Cooney-Hathaway

Key Points

- How we see ourselves has a direct bearing on how we see others. We must start by being a good neighbor to ourselves before we can proceed to being neighbor to our family and to the outside world.
- There are four generations that comprise today's Catholic Church: Pre Vatican II, Vatican II, Post Vatican II, and Millenials. We need to respect each group and value their gifts.
- We need to be willing to interact with and value those who think differently from us.

October 6, 2008
Fall Assembly at Sacred Heart of the Hills
Guest speaker: Jill Rauh
Topic: "Who Is My Neighbor in the Fall Election?"

- Pope Benedict's first encyclical declares that love of God is not separate from love of others/neighbors. Loving our neighbor must be done within society and the social doctrines of the Church.
- An intrinsic part of this social doctrine is the complementary concepts of charity and justice.
- The Faithful Citizenship document developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is a valuable tool for developing thoughts and actions that are consistent with Catholic social teaching.

October 21, 2008
Meeting at St. Irenaeus
Panel of local candidates

- Six individuals running for local offices in the November election were present. Each candidate gave a brief talk on their qualifications and addressed the question, "Who Is My Neighbor?"

November 18, 2008
Meeting at Oxford Dominican Retreat House
Guest speaker: Michael Hovey

- The key element of Catholic social teaching is reverence for human beings and actively helping those who cross our path.

January 20, 2009
Mini-Retreat at St. Mary of the Hills
Guest speaker: Fr. Maciej Pawlowski

- Set the tone of charity and gratitude toward others in your thoughts, words, and actions.
- Love is the greatest cure the world has ever known.
- Cultivate love in your heart through stories, prayer, introspection, and charity.

February 17, 2009
Meeting at St. Andrew
Guest speaker: Regina Bowden,

- There are goals of communication; a key rule must be "do no harm" when communicating.
- There are four communication styles: direct, spirited, systematic, and considerate.
- People may forget your words, but will always remember how you made them feel.

March 23, 2009
Assembly at St. Benedict Parish
Guest speaker: Fr. Michael Crosby

- People use power to influence others.
- Fr. Crosby's chart illustrates negative and positive ways of relating

Topic: "The Paradox of Power:
From Control to Compassion"

- to others, centering on the idea of power within the relationship.
- Specific techniques can be effectively used for conflict management and conflict resolution: active listening and forgiveness are key.
- Positive use of power enhances collaboration, understanding, and mutual listening and helps parties reach agreement.

Kim introduced Jim Kiefer, Director of the Office of Pastoral Ministry at the Archdiocese of Detroit, who was asked to come to the meeting and facilitate a discussion and brainstorming session on PMA program ideas for next year. He emphasized that the Pastoral Ministers' Association exists to serve the lay and religious ministers in the PAV. He began by asking everyone take a moment and meet/greet someone at their table that they did not know well. Recognizing that the coming year(s) are likely to be challenging with regard to the local economy, he suggested that the PMA may want to focus on practical ways to help those they serve.

Opening Prayer

Fr. Joe Dailey and others from Christ the Redeemer led a prayer and song service.

Discussion

Jim offered several personal reflections on real-life situations of hardship and need. In many cases, the real issue is not absolute scarcity, but how resources are distributed. He said that in the 1930s and after the attacks of 9/11, people filled churches and felt a greater need for spirituality. It is only when things are unacceptable that change happens. He suggested that in helping the people the PMA ministers to, they will also be helping themselves grow in faith.

Lisa Brown read a parable about praying for rain when planting corn. This story told how a dry period is needed with crops to grow deep roots that can withstand wind and hard times. Discussion followed on trusting in the dry periods and finding purpose in hardship.

Jen Gerada introduced the small group discussion. She said the Planning Team is proposing meetings that address "Practical Ministry" next year. There will be three topic meetings and two mini retreats, the former providing tools and information to help PMA members in their jobs, and the latter that feed the ministers. Ideas that the Planning Team came up are:

- Practical technology
- Communication skills; follow up to Regina Bowden meeting
- Minister to minister: condensed ACTS seminar at a PMA meeting
- Volunteer ministry with an emphasis on living out our baptismal calling
- Ways to nurture and retain volunteers
- Ecumenism

Everyone was asked to select one of three areas -- Assembly topics, Mini-Retreats, or Topic Meetings -- and spend ten minutes in that group generating ideas for next year. Results are shown below along with a count taken to gauge interest. The Planning Team will use this in finding speakers for next year.

Assemblies

1. Timothy Radcliff, OP, will be in town and available on Thursday, March 11, 2010. Topic TBD, something dealing with the shape of the future church.
2. Fall Idea: Sherry Weddell from the Catherine of Siena Institute. Topic: Building on people's gifts; focus on abundance and multiplying our gifts; called and gifted.

Retreats

1. Pastoral Care of the un/underemployed. (count: 15)
 - meeting people where they are at
 - career mentoring programs
 - how to write a resume

- emphasis on what is practical
2. Practical skills for respectful dialog. Follow up on Regina Bowden presentation. (count: 15)
 - inservice meeting on better collaboration and communication
 - suggested speaker: Annelise Sinnott
 3. Finding Blessings and Abundance in scarcity; sharing gratitude for our volunteers and successes in hard times (count: 25)
 4. Practical workshon on Ecumenical relations; LOVE, Inc. (count: 6)
 5. Keeping families together; info for families (ex. domestic abuse, natural family planning) (count: 4)
 6. Celebrating our accomplishments – Power point closing prayer showing good things from all parishes (*not suitable as a retreat theme, could use at meeting next May*)
 7. Creative ways to deepen our own spirituality in our scarcity of time (count: 8)
 - in our business
 - time management/prayer
 8. Spiritual Leadership, “Tending the Talents” – presentation to the PMA from those who have attended the “Good Leaders, Good Shepherds” seminar on this (better as a workshop, not retreat)

Topic Meetings (in order of voting)

1. Technology: websites, podcasts, social networking, registration software, office equipment. Cost effectiveness – is low- or no-cost worthwhile? (count: 21)
2. Growing community, getting people to belong and not just attend (count: 15)
3. How to run a great meeting (count: 4)
4. Creative ways to bring in income beyond the collection plate (count: 3)
5. How to minister to immigrants, transient workers/families, multi-cultural parishes (count: 2)
6. What are the AOD and Vicariate classes that we get announcements and flyers on. Are we in compliance? (count: 1)

Collaborative/Networking

Vicar's Report – Fr. Jerry reported on the April 29th Vicars' meeting. The five task forces that are examining all areas of the AOD Central Office are still at work. One change that may happen soon is changing to email communication rather than U.S. mail from the AOD. The Tracking Committee will meet soon to review the Together In Faith updates. Five priests will be ordained on May 30. Fr. Jerry thinks the vicar transition will happen in September, based on when/if the Council of Vicars and the Presbyteral Council are merged into one body.

Fr. Jerry presented certificates to Fr. Jim Mayworm, who is retiring from Sacred Heart of the Hills, and Sr. Marian Harvey, who will be leaving the PAV and moving to the IHM Mothehouse in Monroe. He thanked them both for their years of service in the Vicariate and wished them well in their new homes.

Fr. Jerry Thanks

Lisa Brown asked everyone to gather around Fr. Jerry as she read a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving. He has been vicar for the past seven years and many people expressed their thanks and gratitude for his work. It is expected that a new vicar will be announced this summer or in the fall.

Announcements

The meeting ended with a closing prayer and lunch at 12:15 PM.

Attendance:

Carol Jadach	Archdiocese of Detroit
Jim Kiefer	Archdiocese of Detroit
Barb Williams	Catholic Community Response Team
Carleen Ward	Children's Village
Nancy Clancy	Christ the Redeemer
Fr. Joe Dailey	Christ the Redeemer
Marilyn Lines	Christ the Redeemer
Lisa Pratt	Christ the Redeemer
Karen Sweitlik	Christ the Redeemer
Rakhi Roy	Genesis Ministries
Sr. Marian Harvey	Lake Orion Nursing Center
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Maria Charria	Pontiac Catholic Community
Maria Jimenez	Pontiac Catholic Community
Lourdes Smith	Pontiac Catholic Community
Fr. Jim Mayworm	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Michael Stach	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Ann Meyers	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Ann Thomas	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Bonnie Banaszek	St. Benedict
Maria Geryk	St. Benedict
Jen Gerada	St. Irenaeus
Nancy Mason Bordley	St. John Fisher
Paul Borucki	St. John Fisher
Lisa Brown	St. John Fisher
Fr. Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher
Sue Buratto	St. John Fisher
Sr. Mary VanGilder	St. John Fisher
Michelle Pittel	St. John Fisher
Sr. Mary VanGilder	St. John Fisher
Debbie Bloomgren	St. Joseph
Kathy Galbraith	St. Joseph
Kathy Hasty	St. Joseph
Kim Myers	St. Joseph School
Jon Myers	St. Joseph
Fr. Mike Verschaeve	St. Joseph
Peggy Casing	St. Mary of the Hills
Chris Kozlowski	St. Mary of the Hills
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian