



## Pastoral Ministers' Association Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2010

Meeting held at St. John Fisher, Auburn Hills

### Introduction

Nancy Clancy welcomed everyone to the final Pastoral Ministers' Association meeting of the year at 10:05 AM. She led a brief prayer and song service, concluding with a "pair blessing" between attendees.

Sandy Favrow distributed Starburst candies and instructed everyone to take one. She then passed out instructions for a brief ice-breaker activity. Depending on the color of candy chosen, people shared with those at their table their pet peeve, summer plans, a quality they admire in another person, or something on their "bucket list."

Barb Williams gave a brief recap of the PMA meetings for this year. She said that the gatherings were well attended and topics and speakers were a result of the PMA planning meeting held last May. Today's meeting will be used to generate ideas for next year speakers, mini-retreats, and PAV assembly. (The 2009-10 meeting summaries are included at the end of these minutes.)

Jen Gerada, Chair of the PMA Planning Team, asked if anyone present had implemented an idea that they first heard about at a PMA meeting. Dan Grieg said he had been contacted after the Technology in Ministry meeting. Others had contacted their counterparts in other parishes to exchange ideas or collaborate on something.

Lisa Brown shared a story by David Sanders that encouraged ministers to shake off their weariness and renew themselves by looking in new places. Comparing the work of ministry to fishing, the story concludes: *"Christ is bidding us to cast our nets in a different place. Instead of the port side, which we are used to, which we are comfortable with, instead of the port side on which we have been taught to cast, Christ is calling us to cast our nets starboard. And so the call goes out to all who have labored into the night; to those perplexed by the ineffectuality of the way it has always been done, "Cast your nets starboard."*

### Program: "Renewable Energy"

Jen began the planning activity by explaining how the theme of "Renewable Energy" came about. The Planning Team had been discussing how to move forward from this year's focus on "Finding Abundance and Blessing in Scarcity." They wanted to work on strengthening and encouraging our core members, both in the PMA and in parishes, schools, agencies, religious communities, and institutions. Words like renew, revive, reawaken, re-establish, reinvigorate, and rebuild kept coming up and the theme of "Renewable Energy" was born.

To help the group get started, Jen asked people to brainstorm whatever came into their minds when thinking of how to recharge their ministry, nurture others, and feed ourselves. Ideas and thoughts expressed were:

Meeting people where they're at

Prayer: Conversation with God

Patience

Making a difference

Welcoming Spirit

Offering hope as a light to the world

Growing in love

Uncover the treasure in our diversity

Focused on Christ

Practical application of our faith

Being understanding

Listening to God and to each other

How can we be more Christ-like?

Being realistic about our current Church culture

Beyond Conditioning

Addressing the aging of our parishioners

Feed others, Feed yourself

Be open – value others' experiences

Open to Holy Spirit's guidance  
 Carrying the tension of our time

Dealing with stress  
 Evangelizing the church

Everyone was then asked to join one of three discussion groups and think of ideas for next year. The groups were: PMA Topic meetings, PMA mini-retreats, and the PAV Assembly. After twenty minutes of table discussion, each group gave their list of ideas and everyone voted on what they were most interested in.

**PMA Topic Meeting Ideas**

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Intergenerational Catechesis	10
Volunteers - getting, training, making work meaningful	5
Addressing the Abuse Scandal and Investigation of Women Religious (two separate topics, one PMA meeting)	30
New Liturgical Translation	20
Moving Forward in Technology	5
Ordination of Women	0
Evangelization—How to get parishioners engaged	30
Finding Common Ground	15
Youth-- Understanding and Engaging our Youth Multicultural Youth; finding identity and community "Uberdiversity"	25

**PAV Retreat Ideas**

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Bernie Owens, SJ, and/or Mary McKeon	Discernment / Ignatius of Loyola	5
Pat Cooney Hathaway or Regina Bowden	Stress: Anchoring ourselves amid stress Recognizing; care and managing Practical Suggestions How do we carry it in a way that keeps us grounded?	10
Sr. Margaret Brennan, IHM	Casting our Nets Starboard; Openness to the new...Embracing change Grieving the old so we can be open to the new/acceptance	25

**PAV Assembly Ideas**

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Fr. Jim Bacik (Toledo)	The renewal of the church	0-5
John Allen	Global perspective of Church	5-10
John Shea	Diversity of ages and stages	10
Ron Rolheiser	Mysticism	5
	Catholic Identity	15
	Global Diversity	

Jen thanked everyone for their participation. The Planning Team will use the ideas generated to plan next year's meetings.

Jen presented certificates of appreciation to the following PMA members who are retiring or leaving the Pontiac Area Vicariate:

- Sandy Favrow, retiring as principal of Marist Academy Middle School
- Carmen Pas, retiring from St. Irenaeus
- Fr. Anthony Camilleri, associate pastor at St. Joseph, who will be starting new a assignment at the National Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak

**Pastoral Care of the Sick Update**

Kathy Hasty reported that she and Mary Martin are working on moving the PAV plan on Pastoral Care of the Sick forward. This plan has been in development for several years, starting with two surveys of pastoral care needs followed by an implementation plan. The Vicariate Pastoral Council has been involved, as was a deacon who was briefly assigned to the task. Kathy and Mary held a meeting before today's PMA meeting with pastoral care staff and volunteers from several PAV parishes. They are planning to meet with local hospitals and work toward the goal of sharing the burden equitably while serving the needs of the sick in the PAV.

**VPC Report:**

Bonnie Banaszek reported that the VPC had its final meeting for this year. She is completing her term as liaison from the PMA to the VPC and will be replaced in this role by Sandy Favrow.

**Announcements:**

- Nancy Mason Bordley is looking for host locations for the next sessions of ACTS: A Call to Serve. Future training days will include a track for catechist training.
- Nancy also announced an opportunity to obtain a professional baccalaureate in Religious Education. Classes will begin in the fall. Contact Nancy for more information.
- The Archdiocese is sponsoring a one-day seminar on Marriage, Family, and Pro-Life issues on July 20. Details available at [www.aodonline.org/nfp/conference](http://www.aodonline.org/nfp/conference)
- Barb Williams announced that CCRT has received a grant from the AOD's Parish Empowerment Fund for next year. This money covers a large part of CCRT's overhead expenses. Barb also said that CCRT will be working more closely with the Criminal Justice ministry in the future.
- Joyce Hyttinen said that the AOD Christian Service and Health Care department will hold a workshop on June 9 at St. Clement parish in Romeo. All are welcome.
- Mary Martin said that St. Joseph parish has arranged for Sherry Weddell to come in November to present a follow up program to last fall's PAV assembly on charisms. Mary hopes that the PAV can participate in Sherry's visit with a PMA program.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer and lunch at 11:50 AM.

**Attendance:**

David Grobbel	Archdiocese of Detroit
Joyce Hyttinen	Archdiocese of Detroit
Judy Maten	Archdiocese of Detroit
Sr. Kathleen Matz	Archdiocese of Detroit
Fernando Perales	Archdiocese of Detroit AOD
Socorro Truchan	Archdiocese of Detroit
Barb Williams	Catholic Community Response Team
Marge Huggard	Catholic Social Services
Nancy Clancy	Christ the Redeemer
Dale Youngpeter	Christ the Redeemer, VPC Rep.
Charlie DeBoever	Genesis Ministries
Sr. Karen Hawver	Holy Family

Carla Vandercruyssen	Holy Family
Sandy Favrow	Marist Academy
Judy Gordon	Pontiac Area Vicariate
Sr. Rebecca Hodge	St. Andrew
Pat Metz	St. Andrew
Fr. Tom Slowinski	St. Andrew
Joe Soncrant	St. Andrew
Bonnie Banaszek	St. Benedict
Maria Charria	St. Damien
Maria Jimenez	St. Damien
Jennifer Gerada	St. Irenaeus
Sue Buratto	St. John Fisher
Fr. Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher
Nancy Mason Bordley	St. John Fisher
Lisa Brown	St. John Fisher
Paul Borucki	St. John Fisher
Jan Elbert	St. John Fisher
Nancy Isken	St. John Fisher
Laura Kennedy	St. John Fisher
Michelle Pittel	St. John Fisher
Sr. Mary VanGilder	St. John Fisher
Debbie Bloomgren	St. Joseph
Kathy Hasty	St. Joseph
Mary Martin	St. Joseph
Kim Myers	St. Joseph
Peggy Casing	St. Mary of the Hills
Laura Corrrion	St. Mary of the Hills
John Griffith	St. Mary of the Hills
Dan Greig	St. Mary of the Hills
Chris Kozlowski	St. Mary of the Hills
Fr. Stan Ulman	St. Mary of the Hills
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian Parish

## Highlights from the PAV/PMA meetings

2009-2010

Theme: Strengthening Practical Ministry in Times of Scarcity

**September 15, 2009**

**Mini-Retreat at Guest House**

**“Finding Abundance, Blessing and Meaning in Scarcity”**

**Guest speaker: Dr. Anneliese Sinnott, O.P.**

- The ‘myth of scarcity’ – the idea that there is enough to go around although it is not distributed evenly.
- Insatiable desire can make us greedy, mean, and un-neighborly. When the urge for more is not satisfied, anxiety, addiction, and alienation can result.
- We are summoned to challenge the world’s view that life is for winners and that more is better.

**October 26, 2009**

**Assembly at St. Andrew Parish**

**“Called and Gifted”**

**Guest speaker: Sherry Weddell, Catherine of Siena Institute**

- ‘Charism’ is a gift from God, given to us to be used for the sake of others. A person may have one or several charisms.
- There are workbooks and other materials to help you discern your charism which aid us in discerning our vocation or mission in life.
- To strengthen the Church, we should help everyone discern their charism and work toward valuing and appreciating the different charisms in our parishes.

**November 17, 2009**

**Meeting at Christ the Redeemer**

**“ACTS: A Call To Serve Overview”**

**Guest speakers: Nancy Clancy and Nancy Mason-Bordley**

- Out of the Together in Faith planning process 5 years ago came an initiative to strengthen the Area Church and increase volunteerism. The PAV funded the development of the ACTS program – curriculum and training materials that focus on Pastoral Care, Parish Leadership, and Liturgical Ministers.
- By encouraging staff, commission members, and volunteers to attend one of the 2 ACTS sessions offered each year, parishes can avoid spending resources on creating their own training programs.

**January 19, 2010**

**Mini-Retreat at St. Mary of the Hills**

**“Tending the Talents: A Brief Lesson”**

**Guest Facilitator: Jim Kiefer**

- Several staff people in the vicariate are participating in an 18-month Archdiocese program called Tending the Talents; the program requires ample time and financial resources, so their sharing of the program’s key points is very much appreciated!
- The initial step is to understand your gifts and talents and learn to appreciate the strengths of other people. The DISC spectrum was used to define four personality types and their associated characteristics.

- Ministers can use tools such as RRPS (Role Related Purpose Statement) and KRA (Key Responsibility Area) to articulate a vision for their ministry and give definition to their responsibilities, goals, and tasks.

**February 16, 2010**

**Meeting at St. Joseph Parish**

**“Technology Trends, Tools, and Time Savers”**

**Guest speaker: Chris Snyder, Director of Computing and Network Services, AOD**

- Through the PMA Technology Uses in Ministry contest held prior to the meeting, staff and volunteers in the vicariate shared how they are effectively using technology to organize and communicate.
- The speaker described various technology tools – wireless and portable devices, backup, mail merge, cloud computing, electronic books, smart phones, unified communication, networking sites, blogs, forums, PDF tools, and the concept of optimization.
- Seek advice from other parishes and from the AOD on how to implement technology tools can save you time and increase your effectiveness.

**March 11, 2010**

**Assembly at St. Paul Albanian Parish**

**“The Christian in the 21st Century”**

**Guest speaker: Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, OP**

- Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, OP is a Dominican Friar, renowned speaker, and award winning author. His books include: *Sing a New Song*, *The Christian Vocation*, *Seven Last Words*, *What is the Point of Being a Christian?* and more.
- We need a culture which is strongly Christian but is very open to our secular contemporaries. Avoid the temptation of retreating and the temptation to assimilate.
- The Church needs to be alive with community, doctrine, and a moral vision.

Please go to [www.pontiacarevicariate.org](http://www.pontiacarevicariate.org) for more detailed meeting notes including names of those who can be a resource to you.