



Pastoral Ministers' Association Meeting Minutes May 17, 2011 Meeting held at St. Damien Parish

Introduction

At 10:15 AM Maria Charria led an opening prayer and Fr. Bernardo Cruz welcomed everyone to St. Damien parish. Peggy Casing distributed sheets for an activity to refresh everyone's memory on the PMA programs held this year. Working together in table groups, the task was to fill in a chart with the topic, speaker, and location of the five PMA meetings and one PAV assembly held this year. Choices were provided, but to add to the challenge not all of the list was used. Those at the table with the most correct answers received peanuts for a prize (because they have elephant-like memories).

Jen Gerada provided a recap of the past few years of PMA themes. In 2008-09, the theme was, "Who Is My Neighbor." The following year, "Finding Abundance in Times of Scarcity," focused on the extreme and scary conditions that were affecting us. This past year, the programming theme was "Renewable Energy," as we found our way back to equilibrium.

The theme for next year, chosen by the Planning Team, will be "Transitional Lenses: Seeing Church Through God's Eyes." As a way of getting everyone thinking of this theme, Jen led the group through a series of keywords and concepts, accompanied by scripture passages and stories that enhanced or explained each idea. Examples include:

- Change, cycles, rhythms – having a full life; embracing good/bad, ease/disease, pain/joy
- Opportunity and possibility; openness
- Perspective – life is a process
- Perseverance – anchoring faith in God; Calmer faith (expect joy and deserts);

Attendees then select one of four groups to join, two each for retreat ideas or meeting topics. After about 20 minutes brainstorming, each table presented their ideas for next year. Everyone voted with stickers on the ideas they wanted. The results are:

2011-12 "Transitional Lenses: Seeing Church Through God's Eyes"

Topic Meetings (In order of preference)

1. Responsibility to the Common Good
 - a. Advocacy to treat the problem/deal with the system
2. Culture of Peace and Right Relationships
 - a. How does this fit?
 - b. How to have and model respectful dialog
 - c. Non-violence/non confrontational
 - d. Start somewhere – why not here and now?
3. Envisioning Vatican III
 - a. Bringing to life
4. Shared Programming and Best Practices
 - a. Practical ideas
 - b. Something you've tried that was successful
5. Immigration and Faith
 - a. Youth and their problems
 - b. What is happening in our area?

6. Ministerial Burn out vs. Faith Filled Hope
7. Thinking bigger while keeping relationships
8. What is it time for today?

Retreat Topics (In order of preference) (Retreats should include silence, prayer, music)

1. Persevering in Faith (“Hanging In There”)
2. Spirituality in the second half of life
 - a. Seasons of Life
 - b. Generativity/Mentoring those who come after us
 - c. Speakers: Pat Cooney Hathaway; Richard Rohr
3. Empathy, Compassion, Mercy
 - a. Seeing through God’s eyes
4. Discernment through God’s Eyes
 - a. Surrender and Risk (Ignatian Spirituality)
5. Attachment and detachment
6. Finding Balance (Yin/Yang)
7. Being Time/Doing Time

The Planning Team will use this information to set up programs for next year.

The 2011-12 Planning Team members are: Colleen Burke, Peggy Casing, Nancy Clancy, and Karen Swietlik. One or two more members are welcome.

Vicar’s Report

Fr. Stan announced that there will be new leadership next year at St. Irenaeus, St. Paul Albanian and Holy Family School due to the retirements of Fr. Frank Pollie, Fr. Anton Kcira, and Sr. Karen Hawver. He presented certificates to all of the retiring PMA members. He also thanked Planning Team members who are completing their terms – Jen Gerada, Lisa Brown, Barb Williams, and Sandy Favrow.

Updates from the recent Presbyteral Council meeting:

- The Archdiocese capital campaign, “Changing Lives Together,” has already raised \$9.8 million dollars from 18 pilot parishes. The PAV parishes plan to participate together in a few years and include funding for our schools.
- Together in Faith-Phase II has been underway since January. Meetings held so far have evaluated external, internal, and financial data for PAV parishes. The next meetings will develop recommendations on how the PAV can address known challenges, most prominently the decline in the number of priests.
- The Pastoral Care of the Sick initiative will be coordinated by a deacon, if one is assigned to the PAV in June.
- A recent objective of the VPC is the Enhanced Marriage Ministry. This will continue next year with workshops and an emphasis on mentoring.

Catholic Community Response Team

Barbara Williams, Director of CCRT, gave a brief presentation on this PAV-sponsored organization. CCRT was formed in 2004 with the mission of bridging the gap between two populations in the PAV -- the large number of poor in the city of Pontiac and the relatively affluent people who live in the surrounding suburbs. Support comes from the PAV, individual parishes, private donations, diocesan programs/grants, and working with partnering agencies or foundations.

Barb used photos and stories of individuals who come to CCRT for assistance. Many are (or have been) homeless, have been released from jail, are facing eviction or utility shut-offs, and/or are struggling with

addictions and/or mental illnesses. Many people come in need of clothing, food, or furniture. Most clients have an average monthly income (disability or work) below the federal poverty level.

CCRT's operating expenses are largely covered by a Parish Empowerment grant from the AOD. They are always in need of volunteers and many opportunities are available. Not everyone is comfortable working with clients and there are other areas where help is needed (data entry, grant research and writing, joining the "Movers and Shakers" group that transports donated items, picking up and sorting food and goods.) Parishes or other groups that want to help can hold drives for food or personal care items, have Christmas Giving Tree tags for CCRT, or donate money or gift cards. She also welcomes any opportunity to speak to parish groups, parish councils, or other ministries.

Barb's full presentation is available on the PAV website at:
www.pontiacarevicariate.org/pma/pmahome.htm

Confirmation Program

Deacon Mark Springer and Lisa D'Souza spoke on an innovative program for confirmation candidates that involves the whole parish, not just the religious education area. They gave out copies of Mark's book, "The 7 Principles of Effective Youth Ministry: A Handbook for Spiritual Growth." Mark would be happy to meet with any parish or youth ministers to explain this program in more detail.

Announcements

- Fr. Paul Turner will speak on the coming new Roman Missal - May 24, 1 – 3 PM at St. Hugo of the Hills, and May 24, 7 – 9 PM at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. More info at www.aodonline.org

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

Attendance:

Archdiocese of Detroit	Sr. Kathleen Matz
Catholic Community Response Team	Barb Williams
Christ the Redeemer	Nancy Clancy
Christ the Redeemer	Karen Swietlik
Jail and Outreach Ministry	Peggy Devaney
Lourdes Senior Community	Colleen Burke
Pontiac Area Vicariate	Judy Gordon
St. Andrew	Joe Soncrant
St. Benedict	Bonnie Banaszek
St. Damien of Molokai	Fr. Bernardo Cruz
St. Damien of Molokai	Maria Charria
St. Damien of Molokai	Maria Jimenez
St. Damien of Molokai	Lourdes Smith
St. Irenaeus	Jennifer Gerada
St. John Fisher	Paul Borucki
St. John Fisher	Sue Buratto
St. John Fisher	Fr. Jerry Brzezinski
St. John Fisher	Nancy Isken
St. Joseph	Kathy Hasty
St. Joseph	Mary Martin
St. Joseph	Colleen Heacock

St. Joseph School	Jon Myers
St. Mary of the Hills	Peggy Casing
St. Mary of the Hills	Chris Kozlowski
St. Mary of the Hills	Fr. Stan Ulman
St. Therese of Lisieux	Lisa D'Souza
St. Alexander Youth Ministry	Deacon Mark Springer