



Pastoral Ministers' Association Meeting Minutes November 15, 2011 Meeting held at St. Mary's Retreat House

Introduction

Sr. Rita Birzer welcomed everyone to St. Mary Retreat House and offered to give tours of the retreat building and location on the property after the meeting. PMA Planning Team member Colleen Burke introduced Lynn Salata, the mini-retreat leader for the day. Lynn has held jobs in the corporate, academic and non-profit sectors involving educating, developing, and guiding personnel and management teams. She is also been a "behind the scenes" spiritual writer for fifteen years on Catholic and spiritual publications. Lynn also designs and leads retreats on a wide range of topics and for both teens and adults. You can find out more at her website www.personally-speaking.com.

Presentation: "My Mission, My Fire"

Lynn began with the observation that leading or participating in a ninety minute retreat is a challenge due to the very short time available. Retreats imply a time apart from normal duties and routines and a chance to reflect and step into deeper parts of our selves. Her goal for the time available was to focus on the elements of work and the mission that each person has.

Mission is not a project or task, but a something that brings fulfillment and is rooted deep within one's being. It is a gift from God. A few minutes were spent in silence while each person reflected on the areas of their life where mission, ministry, and deep commitment were experienced. For today's discussion, everyone was to choose the most significant area to focus on. Through examples and descriptions, Lynn guided the group to reflect on both positive and negative things that impact their personal mission. Positive aspects include inner strengths that help one succeed and find the joy in their work. Challenges are those activities, circumstances, or attitudes that cause movement away from the center, or fire, of mission. It is often easier to identify the things that detract from mission. Some are: routine and habit; being too busy or over committed; misplaced service ("sitting in the wrong seat"); or overlooked potential.

Lynn suggested that the antidote to exhaustion is not rest, but wholeheartedness. A test for wholeheartedness looks at the presence of deep peace, inner satisfaction, whether or not one's full potential is being used, the opportunity to use one's gifts, and the freedom to be yourself. The final silent reflection was to find a personal "best action" by answering the question, "What can I do to stay in touch with God's fire within me?"

The mini-retreat time concluded with an open exchange of ideas on what is helpful and detrimental to keeping a true sense of mission and purpose. A common theme expressed was a need for deep discernment and conscience examination.

Vicar's Report

Fr. Stan reported on the following activities in the PAV and the Archdiocese:

- The final report for the Together in Faith Phase II has been submitted to the AOD. It is now up to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and Archbishop Vigneron to review all the reports and announce any decisions early next year.
- The formation day for lay ministers to the sick was attended by representatives from all ten PAV parishes. Fr. Stan thanked Kathy Hasty for her work in planning and leading the day. He would like to have a similar event for marriage support and enrichment. A VPC committee is currently gathering information on marriage programs available throughout the PAV and offered by the Archdiocese.
- The VPC has scheduled presentations for upcoming meetings on the new AOD parish guidelines, men's prayer groups, and vocations. The Council would like key representatives from parishes

(parish council presidents, ministry heads) to attend the VPC meeting that addresses their area of responsibility.

- The critical needs in the city of Pontiac must become a top priority for the PAV, especially since St. Damien parish is in our vicariate and is most impacted by the level of poverty in Pontiac.

VPC Liaison Report

Kathy Hasty, liaison to the VPC from the PMA, reported that the PAV Spring Assembly has been finalized for Tuesday, March 6, at St. Paul Albanian parish. Fr. Mark Miller will be the speaker. He will also be the presenter on March 7 at a daytime event for parish ministers. The topic for that day is Formation of Conscience.

Kathy seconded Fr. Stan's earlier comments on the success of the day of formation. Approximately fifty people attended. She noted that cost cutting has caused the Lake Orion nursing home to cut their chaplain position. This will likely put more demand on the ministers from St. Joseph and Christ the Redeemer. Kathy said supporting and training volunteers will continue to be an important job for the PAV. Colleen Burke said there is a group called Project Compassion Ministries (<http://www.projectcompassion.net/>) that provides volunteer chaplains to care facilities.

Sharing Best Practices

Judy Gordon distributed a list of all the best practices submitted at the September PMA meeting that addressed ministering to those in the second half of life. She said only a few ideas were submitted in advance of this meeting but that more could be turned in after the meeting. Today's topic is "Best practices for keeping your fire burning."

Announcements

- St. Andrew Christmas Charities Market – Saturday, November 19, 5:30-6:30 PM and Sunday, November 20, from 8:30AM – 2:00 PM and 5:30-6:30PM in the Activities building.
- "With Mary, With Hope" retreat at Sacred Heart Seminary on December 2. Led by Bishop Cepeda.
- Barb Williams said she welcomes any opportunity to speak to parish groups about CCRT. Of special concern are new laws in Michigan that are cutting off benefits to many people.
- Sacred Heart parish has Sr. Mary Finn for an Advent evening on December 3 at 5PM. Contact Ann Thomas for more details.
- Lourdes Retirement community is holding a Mass on World Day of the Sick on February 10, at 1:30 PM at Our Lady of the Lakes. Reception will follow; bus rides are available from senior homes. Contact Colleen Burke at Lourdes for more information.

The meeting ended at noon with a closing prayer and lunch.

Future PMA Meetings: (all meetings begin at 10 AM unless otherwise indicated)

February 21, 2012 at St. John Fisher

April 17, 2012 at St. Benedict

May 15, 2011 at St. Andrew

Attendance:

Susan Leslie	Archdiocese of Detroit
Sr. Kathleen Matz	Archdiocese of Detroit
Barb Williams	Catholic Community Response Team
Colleen Burke	Lourdes Senior Community
Judy Gordon	Pontiac Area Vicariate
Ann Thomas	Sacred Heart
Joe Soncrant	St. Andrew
Bonnie Banaszek	St. Benedict
Connie Cunningham	St. Benedict
Fr. Larry Siroskey	St. Benedict

Jen Gerada	St. Irenaeus
Fr. Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher
Sue Buratto	St. John Fisher
Kathy Hasty	St. Joseph
Colleen Heacock	St. Joseph
Mary Martin	St. Joseph
Kim Myers	St. Joseph
Fr. Stephen Pullis	St. Joseph
Colleen Schultz	St. Joseph
Sr. Rita Birzer	St. Mary Retreat House
St. Martina Stegman	St. Mary Retreat House
Peggy Casing	St. Mary of the Hills
Laura Corrion	St. Mary of the Hills
John Griffith	St. Mary of the Hills
Chris Kozlowski	St. Mary of the Hills
Fr. Stan Ulman	St. Mary of the Hills
Sr. Rita Birzer	St. Mary Retreat House
Sr. Martina Stegman	St. Mary Retreat House