



Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes
January 15, 2007
Meeting held at St. John Fisher

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM with a welcome from Bill Travnik and prayer led by Bob Krueger. All present introduced themselves.

Know My Parish

Ryan Charlton gave a Powerpoint presentation on St. Andrew parish. While showing photographs of St. Andrew members and activities, Ryan told us that his parish is one of the largest in the Archdiocese with 4500 families. Their size is both a strength and a challenge. He described the many activities and outreach programs and read quotes and testimonials from St. Andrew members to personalize feelings toward the parish.

Connie Cunningham gave the VPC an overview of St. Benedict parish. She said the 900 family parish is relaxed, caring and supportive and serves a very diverse population. Due in large part to the leadership of pastor Fr. Tom Kuehnemund and parish-wide events such as an annual picnic and Christmas dinner, St. Benedict has a strong sense of identity. They will host a parish mission March 11-14, 2007.

Focus Items for Discussion:

- a. Priest/Pastor Replacement ad hoc committee– Lew Elbert gave a status report on this initiative. The committee has been meeting regularly and will issue a final report in March. They have found this topic to be a sensitive one and have been met with everything from willingness to tackle the problem to “Don’t bother us.” Lew feels that education and precise language are needed to move forward constructively.

Cathy Wagner offered some comments from the Archdiocesan point of view, including:

- All Vicariates have been asked to prepare a plan addressing priest/pastor replacements in the face of declining numbers.
- Some dioceses in the United States have imported priests from overseas. This brings another set of problems concerning culture clash and justice to the countries losing these priests.
- Everyone acknowledges it is hard to close parishes.
- This is not only a problem, but also an opportunity to be creative.

- b. PAV Assembly on Racism, February 26, 2007 with keynote speaker Fr. Clarence Williams. Flyers were distributed to each rep with space on the back for their parish leadership to sign up. Fr. Jerry stressed that these semiannual assemblies are intended to bring together the PAV leadership to focus on issues that impact all of the Vicariate.

VPC reps are urged to personally invite their pastors, parish council members, commission heads, school boards and pastoral staff. Any questions on this event can be directed to Bob Krueger or Judy Gordon.

- c. PAV Hispanic Ministry summary sheets – Jacques Pasquier reviewed the feedback from parish councils on the Hispanic assembly. He noted that many councils had similar comments including language barriers and lack of Spanish-speaking staff. Fr. Jerry suggested that this issue could be moved forward in a way similar to the Pastoral Care where the study committee is being followed by an implementation committee.

As a next step, VPC reps to report back to the Council at the March 26, 2007 meeting with an update on how their parish is meeting the commitments they made this year. Specifically, reps are asked to provide the following:

- Report on what you have done so far.
- What do you intend to do as a parish this year?
- What should the Vicariate do collaboratively to advance the goals of the Hispanic Pastoral Plan?

Action Items:

- a. PAV Finance ad hoc committee: Bob Krueger distributed a revised report from the ad hoc committee. This new statement incorporates suggestions made at the last meeting regarding the mission statement for the PAV Standing Finance Committee.

Bob then asked for volunteers to serve on the first PAV Finance Committee. Ex officio members include the PAV Finance Manager, currently Paul Borucki, and the Vice Chair of the VPC Executive Committee, currently Bob Krueger. Steve Lawless and Terry Mike offered to serve. Four different parishes are represented by these four members.

Judy will add the Finance Committee guidelines to the VPC Operational Guidelines document.

- b. Fishermen's Fund– The Council discussed how to proceed with the Fishermen's Fund campaign that was presented to them in November by Harry Kemp. Judy has contacted Harry for an article to be included in the next PAV newsletter. Judy will send this to VPC reps for them to have printed in their parish bulletins.

Reports/Updates:

- a. Vicar's Report: Fr. Jerry announced that the Pastoral Care Implementation Committee has been formed and is already at work. Their first step will be to create and conduct a survey of parishioners, ideally completed during masses, regarding pastoral care of the sick in the Vicariate. The Implementation Committee will compare the results of the parishioner survey to the one taken last year. They will then prioritize the two reports' recommendations and set up a plan and timeline for implementing these recommendations.

The Council of Vicars did not meet in December. Fr. Jerry will report on their next meeting at the March VPC meeting.

Fr. Jerry and Bill Travnik sent a letter from the PAV to newly appointed Bishop Daniel Flores welcoming him to the Archdiocese and received a letter from Bishop Flores in return.

Fr. Jerry shared an invitation from the Archdiocese to attend training on the Michigan Catholic Conference's Legislative Advocacy Network. The meeting is on January 18, 2007 at Sacred Heart Seminary. Jacques will attend.

Open Forum/Communications

- Bob Krueger will get a map of the St. Andrew campus to Judy Gordon who will fan it out to the PAV before the February assembly.
- Terry Mike invited all to attend the dinner in honor of "Keep the Dream Alive" award recipients Joe and Claire Bono.
- Rakhi said 50 young adults attended an all-day Advent retreat. A similar event is being planned for Lent.
- Jacques urged Council members to invite Barb Williams attend their parish council meetings and/or other parish gatherings to give a presentation on the Catholic Community Response Team. Bill Travnik shared his experience at St. Mary of the Hills when Barb spoke to their GIFT program.
- Renee announced that the Pontiac Catholic Community has received a grant from the AOD for building repairs and improvements. The PCC had a service with Bishop Flores at St. Vincent de Paul parish.
- Paul distributed a Financial History report through 12-31-06.

The meeting ended at 8:40 PM.

Next VPC Meeting: Pontiac Area Vicariate Assembly
Monday, February 26, 2007 at St. Andrew Activity Building.

PAV Quarterly Newsletter Publication dates for 2007: March 3/4, June 2/3, September 8/9, December 1/2

Attendance

Cathy Wagner	Archdiocese of Detroit
Megan Lamont	Archdiocese of Detroit
Tom Donahoo	Campus Ministry
Rakhi Roy	Genesis Ministries
Jacques Pasquier	Pastoral Ministers' Association
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Renee St. Dennis	Pontiac Catholic Community
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart of the Hills Parish
Bob Krueger	St. Andrew Parish
Ryan Charlton	St. Andrew Parish
Connie Cunningham	St. Benedict Parish
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus Parish
Deacon Ron Valade	St. Irenaeus Parish
Paul Borucki	St. John Fisher Parish
Fr. Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher Parish
Lew Elbert	St. John Fisher Parish
Fabiola Tonna	St. John Fisher Parish
Steve Lawless	St. Joseph Lake Orion
Terry Mike	St. Mary of the Hills Parish
Bill Travnik	St. Mary of the Hills Parish
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian