

**Pontiac Area Vicariate
Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting
Monday, March 26, 2007 St. John Fisher Chapel**

Opening Prayer

Bill Travnik opened the meeting at 7:01pm. Connie Cunningham read the opening prayer.

Introductions and New Members

Jan Lumetta from Christ the Redeemer was introduced during our introductions.

Minutes from the 01-15-07 VPC Meeting

Minutes from the 01-15-2007 meeting were approved. As a general note, Connie Cunningham informed us that the ACTS training will be conducted at St. Benedict in April.

“Know My Parish Reports”

1. Steve Lawless and Bill Travnik gave “Know My Parish” reports for their parishes, St. Joseph – Lake Orion and St. Mary of the Hills, respectively.
2. These presentations are designed to give a brief “flavor” of the parish, or of what makes it “tick.” The suggestion is that VPC members interview a few people from the parish and ask the following questions:
 - a. Which three words would you use to describe your community?
 - b. What are the 2 or 3 key events in the last year that brought the community together?
 - c. Which ministry is getting the most attention at your parish?
 - d. What are your 2 or 3 main concerns when you think about the community’s future?
 - e. What would you like to see happening in your community in the next 12 months?

Priest Shortage and Parish Partners Ad Hoc Committee Report

1. Lew Elbert discussed the committee’s task which was to develop a plan for dealing with the loss of a pastor in the vicariate and dealing with the priest shortage in general.
2. Lew presented the findings of the committee which basically revealed that parishes and priests do not want to deal with the topic.
3. The committee recommends that if a parish meets the criteria of the Together in Faith (TIF) program (Sacramental, Sustainable, Strategic), then the best alternative for dealing with the loss of a pastor would be for the affected parish to “partner” with a nearby parish in an arrangement the committee proposes to call an “affiliation.”
4. What does an “affiliation” mean? It means:
 - a. Two distinct parishes.
 - b. A shared pastor.
 - c. Pastoral and sacramental coverage.
 - d. Training and development of the professional staff.
 - e. Realignment of staff and parish council responsibilities to avoid pastor “burn-out.”
 - f. Opportunities for greater lay involvement.
 - g. Collaboration within the parishes.
 - h. Transparency and involvement.
 - i. Communication early and often.
5. Fr. Jerry Brzezinski shared that if vicariates do not participate in the TIF process and develop plans for dealing with the priest shortage, the Archdiocese and the Department for Parish Life will do it for them. The priests will be retiring or will not be around to have to deal with the problem. The VPC needs to present some plan to the Archdiocese. We need to examine what and who will be impacted if we lose a priest. The VPC is where

**Pontiac Area Vicariate
Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting
Monday, March 26, 2007 St. John Fisher Chapel**

the conversation must begin. If we don't present a plan, then the Archdiocese will decide for us.

6. We all agreed the priest shortage is a problem and we need to develop a plan.

2007-2008 VPC Objectives – Hispanic Pastoral Assembly

Fr. Jerry discussed the current and possible objectives for next year. We agreed to plan the budget using the same levels as this year and review the handout at the next meeting.

Feedback on the Racial Sobriety Assembly

Fr. Jerry asked for feedback on the Racial Sobriety Assembly. Comments included:

- a. Fr. Clarence did a great job. It was informative and thought-provoking.
- b. People were hesitant to talk about it at first.
- c. We need to integrate, not just black and white but in other ways too.
- d. We are afraid of the unknown; the basic point was a lack of trust.
- e. We cannot keep blaming our past; we need to treat it as a disease.
- f. The commonality of the group's response was interesting.
- g. We all need to talk frankly with each other.

VPC Membership Roster Update

Fr. Jerry asked everyone to verify their information and to provide the information on who will be representing your parish next year by June 11, 2007. Please have the new people at the June meeting so we can prepare them for the August meeting.

Vicars' Meeting

Fr. Jerry reported that the Vicars are examining the possibilities of consolidating the Vicar's and the Presbyteral Council. The Presbyteral Council has no constituency to report to.

Parish Council Feedback on Hispanic Ministry Progress

Jacques Pasquier reported that only two parishes have reported back to him with parish feedback on Hispanic Ministry. He asked that everyone try to get feedback to him before the next meeting.

Job Loss Support at St. Andrew

Bob Krueger reported that there is a Job Loss Support Group at St. Andrew. The group does not find jobs for people but provides assistance in resume writing, networking, job search, and interviewing skills. More information is available on the PAV website.

Closing Prayer

Connie Cunningham closed the meeting at 9:25 pm with the closing prayer.

Next Meeting

Monday, April 23, 2007 at 7:00 pm at St. John Fisher.
Know My Parish: St. Paul Albanian and St. Irenaeus.
Prayers and refreshments: St. Irenaeus
Ad Hoc Committee Report: New Parish

**Pontiac Area Vicariate
Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting
Monday, March 26, 2007 St. John Fisher Chapel**

Attendance:

Name	Parish or Organization
Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer Christ the Redeemer
Rakhi Roy	Genesis Ministries Oakland Comm. College Laurence
Tom Donahoo	Tech.
Renee' St. Dennis	Pontiac Catholic Communities
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart
Bob Krueger	St. Andrew
Ryan Charlton	St. Andrew
Connie Cunningham	St. Benedict
Grace Imbrunone	St. Benedict
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus
Ron Valade	St. Irenaeus
Fabiola Tonna	St. John Fisher
Fr. Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher
Jacques Pasquier	St. John Fisher
Lew Elbert	St. John Fisher
Paul Borucki	St. John Fisher
Steve Lawless	St. Joseph – Lake Orion St. Joseph – Lake Orion
Bill Travnik	St. Mary of the Hills
Terry Mike	St. Mary of the Hills
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian St. Paul Albanian