



**Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**November 28, 2006**  
**Meeting held at St. John Fisher**

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM with a welcome from Bill Travnik and prayer by Janet Dinsmoore. Janet announced that Theresa Sayre, the other VPC member from Sacred Heart of the Hills, is resigning for personal reasons. Janet will work on getting another representative from Sacred Heart.

**Know My Parish**

Renee St. Dennis showed a video she made of the three parishes that make up the Pontiac Catholic Community (St. Vincent de Paul, St. Michael, and St. Joseph Shrine). The audio portion was taken from a radio interview with Fr. Sean Sylvester and described the history of the three churches and how they have come to work together since being clustered.

**Focus Items for Discussion:**

- a. Fisherman's Fund Presentation – Harry Kemp addressed the Council on this lay-driven effort to raise funds for students at Sacred Heart Seminary studying for the priesthood, diaconate, or lay ministry. This fund is not an endowment – up to 50% of the money raised is distributed each year. Harry asked the group for contacts in their parishes where presentations could be made to increase awareness of this campaign. Ideas offered included reaching out to young adults through Genesis and Campus ministries, putting information on the PAV website, and distributing a list of specific things volunteers can do. More information on the Fishermen's Fund can be found at [www.fishermensfund.com](http://www.fishermensfund.com).
- b. Feedback from parish council discussions regarding serving the needs of the Catholic Hispanic community in the Vicariate was varied:

Sacred Heart (Janet)	"What can we do?"; Have Spanish-speaking staff; Proximity to Pontiac reduces Hispanic attendance at Sacred Heart; How to serve people who don't officially sign up.
Pontiac Catholic Community (Renee)	Build on what already exists; link to individual parishes; recognize that you need a critical mass of Hispanics at a parish to form community. Issues of importance to PCC are immigration, migrants, housing.
St. Andrew (Ryan)	St. Andrew seeks to be a more inclusive parish; challenge to gain insight into Hispanic issues; be aware of differences and sensitive to cultural issues.
St. Paul Albanian (Dila)	St. Paul felt they have their hands full dealing with their own immigration issues including employment, housing, etc. They will focus on problems of their own members since there are only two churches that serve this population.
St. Irenaeus (Art)	This parish is welcoming and open to all; Hispanic leadership on parish council and staff; Spanish prayer books are available; outreach to Guatemala parish.
St. Joseph, Lake Orion (Steve)	Not discussed at November parish council meeting. Steve will try to follow up on this next year.
St. Benedict (Connie)	Proximity to Pontiac reduces Hispanic attendance at St. Benedict; Hispanic members are welcomed and accommodated; Parish also serves other immigrant populations including those from Asian countries.
St. Mary of the Hills (Bill)	Parish Council committed to: identifying and meeting with Hispanic parishioners; hosting an international fair in February; reaching out to Holy Family school for ideas and education.

St. John Fisher  
(Lew)

Parish Council discussion and subsequent feedback resulted in Lew creating a summary sheet and recommendations for future action. Items were categorized as either parish or Vicariate level. Lew developed a list of "next steps" that he shared with those present.

The group discussed why Hispanic issues loom so large in the Archdiocese right now. The primary reason is numbers – Hispanics make up 35% of American Catholics and 40% of Catholics in the AOD.

Jacques will compile all the input from the parishes and report back to the VPC in January.

- c. PAV Finance ad hoc committee presentation: Bob Krueger distributed and explained the recommendations of the Finance ad hoc committee. When adopted, this document will be included in the VPC Guidelines and Operational Procedures manual and form the framework for the to-be-formed permanent Finance Committee. There was discussion of the wording of the mission statement and whether the duties of the standing committee should be spelled out in detail. Feedback should be sent to Bob in the next few weeks. The Finance committee recommendations will be reviewed again and voted on at the January VPC meeting.

#### **Action Items:**

- a. Approve Guidelines and Operational Procedures document - Bill Travnik, chair of this ad hoc committee, asked for final input on this document. Several minor editing changes were given to Judy for the final copy. Lew suggested that terms of office for VPC members should be spelled out in the Guidelines. Bill said that this should be treated as an amendment once the Guidelines have been adopted. Ryan motioned, seconded by Renee, to approve the Guidelines and Operational Procedures manual. All approved.
- b. ACTS – The next training sessions will be held at St. Mary of the Hills on three consecutive Thursday evenings beginning January 18. Fr. Jerry stressed the value of this PAV initiative and strongly urged Council members to get their parish council to attend.

#### **Reports/Updates:**

- a. Vicar's Report: Fr. Jerry said that the Pastoral Care ad hoc committee is finishing their work. They have analyzed the surveys that were returned to them and have come up with a set of recommendations for the Vicariate to move forward on this objective. A Pastoral Care implementation committee is currently being formed. Fr. Jerry would like someone from the VPC to serve on this committee. Please consider this and contact Fr. Jerry if interested.

The Archdiocesan Tracking Committee, which is charged with monitoring the implementation of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, recently sent a reporting form to be completed by the PAV. The intent of the report is to let the Tracking Committee know how the vicariates are progressing, including how they are integrating the goals of the Hispanic Pastoral Plan into their Together in Faith plan. Jacques volunteered to complete the form using the TIF chart Fr. Jerry distributed last month.

Fr. Jerry reminded everyone that minutes from the vicars' meetings and other AOD committees are distributed to the VPC. He urged the group to read them and keep informed on the discussions and decisions that are ongoing regarding clustering and priest assignment. The vicars are trying to get clarification on how priest vacancies will be filled, whether on a AOD-wide basis or within Vicariates. An early indication has been given that priests may be reassigned where the need is the greatest anywhere in the Archdiocese.

- b. PMA: Meeting held on November 21, 2006. Minutes were distributed via email
- c. APC: meets 12-5-2006
- d. Genesis Ministries: Rakhi distributed a list of Genesis activities for December. She asked if parishes are getting monthly Genesis updates in their bulletins. Everyone except St. Mary of the Hills said the information is in the bulletin. The Harvest for Hope raised almost \$3000 for the Place of Hope warming center.

Rakhi explained the purpose and membership of the two young adult groups in the PAV as follows:

*Fusion Young Adult Ministry* seeks to unite Catholic young adults from parishes throughout the Pontiac Area Vicariate as they seek to deepen their faith, grow friendships and serve the communities around

them. A welcoming and open community, they seek to provide young adults a connection with the Church and the gospel message of Christ Jesus.

*Genesis Ministries* a connection point for Catholic young adults in Oakland County. Spanning five vicariates, their goal is to connect young adults to Christ and the Catholic Church, as well as empower them to live out their faith in the world

**Open Forum/Communications**

- CCRT: Jacques requested that Council members try to get CCRT director time on the agenda of their parish council meetings. She would like to address each parish council to help them understand CCRT.
- Natural Family Planning: Bill Travnik has a contact for presenters on this topic. Contact Bill if interested.
- PAV newsletter – Judy reminded everyone that the next issue will be delivered to parishes December 2nd and should be inserted in bulletins.

The meeting ended at 9:15 PM.

**Next VPC Meeting: Monday, January 15, 2007 at 7:00 PM at St. John Fisher.**

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

**Attendance**

Rakhi Roy	Genesis Ministries
Jacques Pasquier	Pastoral Ministers' Association
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Renee St. Dennis	Pontiac Catholic Community
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart Parish
Bob Krueger	St. Andrew Parish
Ryan Charlton	St. Andrew Parish
Connie Cunningham	St. Benedict Parish
Art Seidler	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