



Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes August 6, 2007 Meeting held at St. Irenaeus Parish

The meeting opened at 6:50 PM with a welcome and prayer led by Ron Valade. Ron gave a brief overview of St. Irenaeus parish including their recent renovations.

Outgoing VPC Chair Bill Travnik welcomed everyone, especially new Council members. Everyone present introduced themselves and said what parish or organization they represented.

Vicariate Introduction Activity

Jacques Pasquier assigned all present to one of four groups that then moved to separate tables. Each group had new and returning VPC members and spent about fifteen minutes answering questions from the incoming Council members and sharing experiences. Feedback from the small groups included:

- Council members enjoy the interaction with each other and sense of accomplishment.
- What is the role of the VPC and VPC reps?
- What is the length of VPC terms?
- How is the Vicar selected?
- Issue-driven meetings and discussions are beneficial.

Guidelines and Operational Manual

Bill Travnik explained how the PAV Guidelines and Operational Procedures manual was developed last year as the output of an ad hoc committee and VPC discussion/feedback. He highlighted sections of the guide including the goals and purpose of the VPC as well as the guiding principle of discernment. He encouraged all Council members to read the guide to gain an understanding of how the VPC operates.

Bob Krueger explained the section on committees, especially the Finance Committee that is beginning its first year of operation. He also outlined the function of the Executive Committee and gave a brief overview of the VPC meeting procedures.

PAV Pastoral Plan / Together in Faith, Past to Present

Jacques led the group through a presentation on the history and subsequent development of the Archdiocese of Detroit's Together in Faith process. All PAV parishes as well as the Vicariate itself prepared a Pastoral Plan according to AOD guidelines. (The Vicariate reports are available on the AOD website at: <http://www.aodonline.org/AODOnline/Together+In+Faith+12019/TIF.htm> There is also a section containing all PAV documents on our website at <http://www.pontiacarevicariate.org/tif/tifhome.htm>)

Some considerations and results from the Together In Faith/Pastoral Plan process included:

- There are considerable differences in economics and demographics within the PAV.
- There are considerable differences in economics and demographics between the PAV and other Vicariates.
- Parish surveys showed an increase in the number of parishioners but a decline in sacramental activity.
- There is a "graying" of parish volunteers and leadership and a growing shortage of priests.
- Expenses exceed revenue at most parishes.

A Strategic Pastoral Plan was developed for the PAV and centered around the areas of Sacramentality, Strategic, and Sustainability. Jacques explained each of these areas and how they have guided the development of the PAV in the last several years. Areas of need that emerged from the surveys and Pastoral Plan development have led to ad hoc committees and action plans for:

- The Hispanic Pastoral Plan and a Vicariate-wide assembly on Hispanic issues,
- Growth in the northern part of the PAV and possible new parish,
- Pastoral Care needs and plans to address these needs,
- Christian Service in the PAV including the creation and support of the Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT),
- Young Adult Ministry – Genesis (multi-vicariate) and Fusion (PAV young adult group), and
- ACTS: A Call To Serve -- Vicariate program to train lay volunteers.

Future challenges for the VPC include improved communications from the VPC to parish councils, incomplete understanding by parish councils of the VPC, and improving the readership of the PAV quarterly newsletter.

2007/2008 Vicariate Pastoral Council / Objectives

Bill Travnik thanked Fr. Jerry and the members of last year’s Executive Committee (Art Seidler, Jacques Pasquier, Bob Krueger) for their time and effort in leading the VPC. He wished the new Council success in the coming year.

Fr. Jerry thanked Bill for his service to the PAV. He commented on the realities of volunteer service and that people serve on the VPC because they believe in the cause of furthering the Area Church. Fr. Jerry introduced incoming VPC Chair Lew Elbert.

Lew said he was proud of the accomplishments of last year’s Council and wants to keep the momentum going in the coming year. He wants meetings to have time for quality discussions and sharing between members. One way to free up time for this will be to send things via email that can be read in advance of Council meetings.

Incoming VPC Vice-Chair Steve Lawless distributed a color-coded grid on the PAV Pastoral Plan Focus Areas. Members are asked to take some time to study this to get a feel for what has been accomplished and what is on the short- and long-term calendar. Steve will keep the Council on track with progress on these objectives throughout the year.

Fr. Jerry passed out a packet containing descriptions of the 2007/2008 Ad Hoc Committees. Much of the effort for the Council this year will come through these small groups. All Council members have been assigned to a committee. Anyone not assigned, or wishing to change their assignment, should contact Fr. Jerry.

The meeting ended at 8:50 PM with a closing prayer led by Ron Valade.

Next VPC Meeting: Monday, September 10, 2007 at 7:00 PM at St. John Fisher Parish

Opening Prayer and refreshments by St. Joseph Parish

Attendance

Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Rakhi Roy	Genesis Ministries
Bonnie Banaszek	Pastoral Ministers' Assoc.
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Asst.
Renee` St. Dennis	Pontiac Catholic Comm.
Carmen Rodriguez	Pontiac Catholic Comm.
Frank Rodriguez	Pontiac Catholic Comm.
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart Parish
Ryan Charlton	St. Andrew Parish
Bob Krueger	St. Andrew Parish
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew Parish
Cathy Settle	St. Benedict Parish
Ron Valade	St. Irenaeus Parish
Paul Borucki	St. John Fisher Parish
Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher Parish
Lew Elbert	St. John Fisher Parish
Kimberly Dodd	St. John Fisher Parish
Jacques Pasquier	St. John Fisher Parish
Steve Lawless	St. Joseph Parish
Terry Mike	St. Mary of the Hills
Bill Travnik	St. Mary of the Hills