



Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes
November 26, 2007
Meeting held at St. John Fisher

The meeting began at 7:00 PM with a prayer for guidance led by Terry Mike. Lew Elbert introduced Deacon Alex Jablonowski who has been assigned to the Pontiac Area Vicariate to implement our Pastoral Care of the Sick plan. Alex said he has been a permanent deacon in the Archdiocese of Detroit for 17 years and has previously served at St. Daniels parish in Clarkston and Christ the Redeemer in Lake Orion. He will be officially associated with the parish of the vicar, currently St. John Fisher.

Council Question

The Council spent the next forty minutes going around the room and sharing the top priorities and concerns of their parish councils this year.

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| Lew Elbert St. John Fisher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Getting more people involved in meaningful ways in parish community ▪ Increase revenue without talking about money |
| Janet Dinsmoore Kay Sendegas Sacred Heart | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attract younger volunteers and members ▪ Invite individuals to participate in ministries and activities ▪ Encourage young people via technology crew |
| Steve Lawless St. Joseph | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plan for the future in the face of parish growth and debt load ▪ Use focus groups (currently seven groups with average 30 members each) to generate ideas and future leadership ▪ Manage debt repayment |
| Kit Wojik Dianne Bubnar St. Andrew | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major building project will be primary parish focus for the coming years ▪ Financing, civic approvals, architectural plans all in process ▪ New ministries include bereavement, homebound, career |
| Tom Donahoo OCC/LTU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obtain club status at Lawrence Tech to allow on-campus meeting and funding ▪ Programming focus on young married couples (1-5 years) |
| Ron Valade Art Seidler St. Irenaeus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase involvement in parish activities ▪ Successes: good turnout at recent parish mission, active youth group, evangelization ministry, new Senior Fellowship ▪ Outreach efforts – overseas aid projects |
| Terry Mike Jack Cashman St. Mary of the Hills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Building is top priority ▪ Personal contact to welcome new members ▪ Improve communications ▪ Leadership development for staff and volunteers ▪ Mailings to new parishioners and inactive ones ▪ Youth and young adult groups seen as key to growth |
| Jan Lumetta Christ the Redeemer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruit more volunteers and strengthen involvement ▪ “Green Shirt Brigade” using message “the Mass continues...” ▪ Identify and approach inactive members ▪ Debt repayment |

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| Renee St. Dennis Pontiac Catholic Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budget shortfall is top concern – need to increase revenue ▪ Plan for eventual merging of parishes ▪ Transition plan for St. Joseph Shrine when St. Pat retires ▪ Trying to utilize assistance from Archdiocese |
| Dila Dusovic Shaqe Nicaaj Sr. Luljana Marku Rev. Anton Kcira St. Paul Albanian | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand parking structure to accommodate community that comes from far and wide ▪ Choir area being remodeled ▪ New programs: youth bible study, mother's retreat ▪ Pastor visits homes of members each year ▪ Manage growth |
| Cathy Settle St. Benedict | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Top priority is to carry out parish mission to love and serve ▪ Current effort to educate parish community on elements of the mass ▪ Work on getting different groups and committees to collaborate more effectively ▪ New religious education program that uses a family approach ▪ Place of Hope, St. Aloysius soup kitchen volunteer efforts unite community |

Focus Item

Marge Huggard, President of Catholic Social Services of Oakland County, addressed the Council on her agency. She stressed that CSSOC is an extension of parish service activities but serves a wider geographic area and takes on tasks that are not practical for parishes. She distributed handouts showing the number of clients served by CSS from each parish area last year. As she had at the Assembly in October, Marge stressed that her agency is not funded by the Archdiocese and that existing sources of revenue such as the United Way and other government grants are being reduced.

Marge requested that parishes offer one fundraising opportunity each year for CSS. This could take the form of a special envelope, a free will offering, or a chance for someone from the agency to address the congregation. She also said that she sends bulletin articles to all Oakland County parishes but is not sure if they get printed. Fr. Jerry requested that VPC reps do the following and report back at the January Council meeting:

1. Find out who receives the bulletin articles that Catholic Social Services sends out and if they are printed in the parish bulletin.
2. Find out if your parish provides the opportunity for parishioners to contribute to CSSOC and in what way(s).

Action Items

1. "Keep the Dream Alive" nominations: Fr. Jerry has received two nominations, one from Sacred Heart of the Hills and one from St. John Fisher. Since SJF has had award recipients in the past, it was decided by the Council that the nomination from Sacred Heart will be sent on to the Archdiocese.
2. Spring Tri-Vicariate Assembly: The spring PAV assembly has been changed from what was previously published. It will now take place on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at St. Paul Albanian parish and will include the three vicariates grouped under Bishop Flores (Southwest, Thumb and Pontiac). The speaker will be Dr. Patricia Cooney-Hathaway from Sacred Heart Seminary speaking on spirituality, ministry and leadership.
3. AOD Needs Assessment Survey: Lew said that a reminder letter has been received from the AOD stating that several PAV parishes have not returned the survey on the increase in requests for economic assistance. He gave copies to those parishes and asked they make sure the survey is completed and sent to the AOD soon.

Reports/ Updates

1. Vicar's Report:
 - The U.S. Bishops have issued an updated Faithful Citizenship document to be used in the coming election year.
 - The International Eucharistic Conference will take place next June in Quebec.
 - 2008 is the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Detroit and will focus on the themes of "Together in Faith" and "Intergenerational Diversity."
2. Pastoral Plan Tracking update: Steve Lawless gave an overview and update on our progress on the PAV Pastoral Plan. The main Focus Areas are Sacramental, Strategic, and Sustainable and there are tasks and timelines associated with each category. Most items for this year are "in-process" and some that have had no action need to be revisited to see if they are still valid. Members of the Executive Committee will report to the Tracking Committee in January.
3. Hispanic Initiative ad hoc committee update: Jan Dinsmoore gave an update on the Hispanic Pastoral Plan ad hoc committee. They are meeting regularly and want to identify contacts in each parish. Jan distributed a bulletin announcement in Spanish and English that the committee wants parishes to print. There will also be a bi-lingual music guide sent to parishes in January.

Announcements

- Art Seidler asked if there was interest in arranging a trip to see Pope Benedict when he visits the U.S. next April. Art will send out an interest finder to parishes.
- St. Irenaeus wants to update their parish guidelines and is looking for new information from other parishes.
- Several Council members who attended the Parish Leadership Conference this year felt it is in need of a facelift – new topics, new format with more discussion.
- The PAV Newsletter will be in parishes this weekend. Council members are asked to arrange insertion into their bulletins.

The meeting ended at 9:15 PM.

Next VPC Meeting: Monday, January 28, 2008 at 7:00 PM at St. John Fisher

Attendance

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| Marge Huggard | Catholic Social Services |
| Jan Lumetta | Christ the Redeemer Parish |
| Tom Donahoo | OCC/LTU |
| Bonnie Banaszek | Pastoral Ministers' Association |
| Judy Gordon | PAV Administrative Assistant |
| Alex Jablonowski | PAV Deacon |
| Renee` St. Dennis | Pontiac Catholic Community |
| Jan Dinsmoore | Sacred Heart Parish |
| Kay Sendegas | Sacred Heart Parish |
| Dianne Bubnar | St. Andrew Parish |
| Kit Wojcik | St. Andrew Parish |
| Cathy Settle | St. Benedict Parish |
| Art Seidler | St. Irenaeus Parish |
| Deacon Ron Valade | St. Irenaeus Parish |
| Jerry Brzezinski | St. John Fisher Parish |
| Lew Elbert | St. John Fisher Parish |
| Mary Martin | St. Joseph Parish |
| Steve Lawless | St. Joseph Parish |
| Terry Mike | St. Mary of the Hills |
| Jack Cashman | St. Mary of the Hills |
| Dila Dusovic | St. Paul Albanian |

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| Shaqe Nica | St. Paul Albanian |
| Sr. Luljana Marku | St. Paul Albanian |
| Rev. Anton Kcira | St. Paul Albanian |