



Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes
January 28, 2008
Meeting held at St. John Fisher

The meeting began at 7:05 PM with a prayer led by Dila Dusovic. As members introduced themselves, they reported on behalf of their parishes on these items:

- Who receives the bulletin articles that Catholic Social Services of Oakland County (CSSOC) sends out and are they printed in your parish bulletin?
- Does your parish provide the opportunity for parishioners to contribute to CSSOC and in what way(s)?
- Was the announcement supplied by the Hispanic Pastoral Plan ad hoc committee printed in your bulletin and/or announced from the pulpit?

St. John Fisher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSS articles received and printed; Envelope in parishioners' packets once a year for CSS; Parish provides \$400/month tithing ▪ Hispanic announcement in bulletin, not announced at masses
St. Joseph, Lake Orion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSS articles received in office, printed on space available basis; Primary support comes from donated office space for CSS
Pontiac Catholic Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Receives articles via email to editor; no special fundraisers for CSS ▪ Hispanic announcement not applicable to PCC
Sacred Heart of the Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Input for bulletin received but must go through approval prior to printing; Special envelopes have been in bulletin for other appeals, not CSS ▪ Hispanic announcement printed in bulletin twice and read in Spanish at all masses one weekend
St. Irenaeus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Articles received in office and printed in bulletin; Accepts requests for assistance from anyone and selects recipients on individual basis ▪ Hispanic announcement not get published or announced yet. Hope to do this weekend.
St. Paul Albanian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have not participated in either CSS or Hispanic initiatives as they have many language issues to deal with in their own community
Genesis Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Receives articles from CSS and forwards to young adult email list ▪ Working on getting Spanish intern and increasing Hispanic activities
St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joe Soncrant receives emails from CSS and forwards to bulletin editor; Financial support from parish tithing; Promotes CSS via link on parish website ▪ Hispanic announcement has not been printed or announced
St. Mary of the Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSS articles received and published; Financial support from parish tithing funds ▪ Hispanic announcement on parish website (two families have volunteered to be liaisons)
Christ the Redeemer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSS articles received in parish office and printed on space available basis; no special fundraisers but food and other drives to support relief efforts
St. Benedict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSS articles received in parish office and printed on space available basis; parish does not financially support CSS

Fr. Jerry emphasized that CSSOC is an integral part of the Pontiac Area Vicariate and that they depend on support from parishes. He related the success that St. John Fisher has had using a special envelope for CSS – it does not impact the parish revenue and is a simple way to bring the request for funds to parishioners. Cathy Wagner will send out the latest AOD statistics showing who CSS serves by parish boundary. Judy will forward this information to the VPC. Lew suggested that next month each rep should report on their parish's policy for extra collections and special envelopes in the monthly packets.

Focus Item

Santiago Fernandez, chair of the Hispanic Pastoral Plan Implementation ad hoc committee, reported this group's progress. He thanked committee members Dila Dusovic, Terry Mike, Janet Dinsmoore and Renee St. Dennis for their work and effort. The committee has met four times and identified the following goals and objectives:

- Draft bulletin announcements/invitations in Spanish (complete)
- Identify Hispanic leadership currently involved in PAV parishes (underway)
- Request Spanish version of PAV newsletter (already in place)
- Disseminate information at PAV parishes about CSSOC Hispanic Outreach services

- Promote the inclusion of Spanish/bilingual liturgical songs at PAV parishes
- Make Spanish/bilingual resources available to PAV DREs.
- Draft engaging and informative articles for the PAV newsletter to help dissipate animosity toward undocumented Hispanic population
- Provide parish-centered activities for women, many of whom are home without transportation

Santiago stressed that PAV parishes can use existing Hispanic groups and AOD development models to move forward in their goal of integrating Hispanics into parishes. He reminded everyone that this is a two-way street and that Hispanic members can and will contribute to parish vitality as much or more than they receive. The entire handout from Santiago is included with the distribution of these minutes.

Action Items

1. “Called To Serve” teen certification: Bonnie Banaszek explained the AOD programs for individuals who work with children. The adult certification program, “Protecting God’s Children,” has been in place for several years and is mandatory for all staff and volunteers who are around children in any capacity. A new certification program for teens was introduced last October. “Called To Serve” is aimed at students in grades 9-12 who work with younger children. Facilitators have already been trained to conduct the 3-hour sessions that includes food, fun, interaction, and role-playing. The goal of this training is to teach teens to recognize and respond to inappropriate behavior. The session ends with a prayerful commissioning of the teens.

The challenge for our PAV parishes is to identify teens who need this certification and schedule training sessions. It is beneficial to all to bring a larger group together than one parish is likely to have. Chris Kozlowski, chair of the Youth ad hoc committee, has been asked to coordinate a training session. His committee will report to the VPC at the February meeting. Lew suggested that all reps inform their parish councils of this program so they are aware of what is coming.

2. Spring Tri-Vicariate Assembly: The spring PAV assembly will 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 VPC Executive Committee is in charge of planning this event and has set up a meeting with the other two vicars and Bishop Flores on February 19. In the event that no one from the Southwest Vicariate is able to attend, Lew will contact them by phone to discuss the assembly. Most important to the planning is to define what can we all learn from each other and how to best utilize Bishop Flores.

Lew stressed that he wants this to be a high value evening for everyone in attendance. He seeks input from the Council as well as the other vicariates in how best to achieve this. He specifically requested that Council members bring this up at all their parish council meetings between now and April 29 and to make sure that everyone in leadership positions in their parish is encouraged to attend. Anyone with input or ideas for the assembly is urged to call or email Lew.

3. Finance Report: Paul Borucki distributed a sheet showing actual and budget information to date. The Finance Committee will meet soon and start work on the PAV budget for next year. One issue they face is not knowing the VPC’s goals for next year, i.e. what ad hoc committees may be formed or what efforts will require money. They will have a report for the Council next month. Paul said the report handed out at this meeting was developed in recent years to summarize financial data. Full reports are available to any Council member or parish council that wants them.

Jan Lumetta questioned some expenditures, specifically stipends and reimbursements for volunteers. Fr. Jerry explained that a lot of PAV work is done by professional staff, not volunteers. Citing ACTS and the Pastoral Care of the Sick as examples, he said that the commitment as well as the abilities of paid staff were needed to achieve these goals. They are given a stipend and/or expense reimbursement as incentive to take on these extra jobs. Cathy Wagner added that in the case of the Pastoral Care committee, AOD staff spent a lot of time working on the surveys. This could not have been done using volunteers from the PAV.

Lew said everyone realizes the current economic conditions and that the Vicariate is committed to being responsible with funds. He asked the Finance Committee to clarify the PAV policy on reimbursements. He also suggested a 10% cut in the PAV budget for next year.

Reports/ Updates

1. Vicar’s Report: Fr. Jerry did not attend the last Vicars meeting. Minutes were distributed via email. Cathy Wagner added that the Red Cross gave a presentation at that meeting and said they are in dire need of blood. Any parish that can host a blood drive is encouraged to do so. Cathy also said that the AOD is not giving pay increases to its

staff next year and is suggesting parishes do the same. The expectation is that the CSA amounts for parishes will increase 1½ - 3%.

2. March PAV newsletter: Judy said it's time again for the PAV newsletter. Suggestions for content from the Council are:
 - a. Hispanic Plan ad hoc committee information – Santiago will prepare and send to Judy the outline from this evening and the bulletin announcement.
 - b. Introduction of Bishop Flores and Tri-Vicariate Assembly
 - c. Information on “Called To Serve” teen certification – Bonnie Banaszek will provide
 - d. CSSOC article – specific services available to community

3. Pastoral Plan Tracking update: Steve Lawless distributed the PAV Pastoral Plan tracking document. He went through all the line items and was updated on progress and personnel changes. Members of the Executive Committee will report to the Archdiocese on the PAV progress on February 19th.

Announcements

Contact the person shown for more information on any of these events:

- Genesis Ministries has two programs for Lent, “40 Days of Service” and “40 Days for Life” and is participating in a Hunger Banquet on February 13th at Oakland University (Rakhi Roy)
- St. Andrew will have an Evening of Recollection on February 10 at 7:00 PM (Dianne Bubnar)
- St. Irenaeus is preparing packages of grain for their sister parish in Guatemala (Art Seidler)
- St. Mary of the Hills will have three evenings dealing with “Race: The Power of an Illusion” on Feb 13, March 1 and 8 (Jack Cashman)
- St. Mary of the Hills will be hosting a teen mass and dance on February 17 (Terry Mike)
- Art Seidler submitted the following correction to the November VPC Minutes:

At the end of the minutes on page 3 under Announcements, the second bullet should state: *Parish Council Guidelines have not been updated by the AOD in many years, and St. Irenaeus asked if all the parishes in the vicariate would support our request to the Archdiocese; and if St. I. could send a request to update the guidelines to the Archdiocese from the Vicariate/all parishes, rather than from St. Irenaeus alone. The Vicariate members agreed that we could do so.*

The meeting ended at 9:15 PM.

Upcoming VPC Meetings: Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:00 PM at St. John Fisher

March 31, 2008 – VPC meeting

Tri-Vicariate Assembly TUESDAY, April 29, 2008 at St. Paul Albanian

May 19, 2008 – VPC End of year picnic

Attendance

Cathy Wagner	Archdiocese of Detroit
Santiago Fernandez	Archdiocese of Detroit
Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Rakhi Roy	Genesis Ministries
Tom Donahoo	OCC/LTU
Bonnie Banaszek	Pastoral Ministers' Association
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Carmen Rodriguez	Pontiac Catholic Community
Frank Rodriguez	Pontiac Catholic Community
Renee` St. Dennis	Pontiac Catholic Community
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart Parish
Dianne Bubnar	St. Andrew Parish
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew Parish
Connie Cunningham	St. Benedict Parish
Cathy Settle	St. Benedict Parish
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus Parish
Ron Valade	St. Irenaeus Parish
Paul Borucki	St. John Fisher Parish

Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher Parish
Kim Dodd	St. John Fisher Parish
Lew Elbert	St. John Fisher 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

PAV HISPANIC AD HOC COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE VPC

ST. JOHN FISHER CHAPEL UNIVERSITY PARISH
January 28, 2008

1. The PAV Hispanic Ad Hoc Committee was created “to suggest ways to integrate so we may better serve our Hispanic brothers and sisters as an Area Church” (from the 5 PAV Objectives for 2007-2008). It also functions as a resource to the VPC regarding the implementation of the AOD/PAV Hispanic Pastoral Plan.
2. The Committee has met four times (August 2007, September 2007, October 2007 and January 2008) and has identified the following objectives/tasks for implementation at PAV parishes (other than the Pontiac Catholic Community):
 - Draft bulletin announcements/invitations in Spanish
 - Identify Hispanic leadership currently involved in PAV parishes
 - Request Spanish version of PAV newsletter
 - Disseminate information at PAV parishes about CSSOC Hispanic Outreach services
 - Promote the inclusion of Spanish/bilingual liturgical songs at PAV parishes
 - Make Spanish/bilingual resources available to PAV DREs.
 - Draft engaging and informative articles for the PAV newsletter to help dissipate animosity toward undocumented Hispanic population
 - Provide for women to have parish-centered activities
3. The Committee recommends supporting an existing initiative by the Pontiac Catholic Community to coordinate outreach ministry to trailer parks (there are groups in these communities that already meet regularly and participate in PCC activities). Since they represent different PAV parishes/regions, the Hispanic Ad Hoc Committee suggests that the VPC interact with them to begin establishing a connection with our Hispanic brothers and sisters that live in the area and participate with these groups. Once the link is made, the goal would be to have them hold their meetings at PAV parishes. This *Base Communities* model has been endorsed by the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry since 1987.
4. The Ad Hoc Committee has also been discussing the following two ongoing challenges during meetings:
 - a. How can the PAV be of assistance to the Pontiac Catholic Community while still making a genuine effort to meet the needs of Hispanics within their parish boundaries?
 - b. How can the Pontiac Catholic Community be of assistance to the PAV in identifying Hispanic brothers and sisters in other PAV parishes and launching into the implementation phase of this process?
5. The PAV Hispanic Ad Hoc committee is a vicariate initiative, not an Hispanic initiative for the benefit of Hispanics. It acknowledges and respects existing structures and seeks to find ways to implement initiatives utilizing current resources and personnel.