



**Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**February 25, 2008**  
**Meeting held at St. John Fisher**

The meeting began at 7:00 PM with a prayer led by Jan Lumetta. Council members and guests introduced themselves.

**Focus Item**

1. Pastoral Care of the Sick Update: Dr. Michael McCallion, from the Archdiocese of Detroit Office of Pastoral Resources and Research, presented the results of the survey of individuals conducted last fall. He thanked the PAV for taking the lead on exploring issues in pastoral care of the sick and looking for practical solutions and actions. He indicated that more analysis needs to be done, including comparing this survey with the one conducted in 2006 that gathered input from pastoral ministers, care facilities, priests, etc.

Mike was pleased with the number of surveys completed (1805). Responses were broken down by age and gender, with older people having more awareness of the sacrament of anointing than younger ones, and women more than men. Mike stressed that “doing” sticks with people more than just workshops or other educational efforts. The Pastoral Care ad hoc committee will issue recommendations for pastoral care based on these surveys, but one general suggestion is for parishes to offer communal anointing on a regular basis.

Lew Elbert thanked the committee for their work. He said that the Executive Committee has already decided that this issue will continue to be a top priority for next year. Pastoral care and end-of-life sacraments are a critical point of contact for people with the Catholic Church and need to be readily available.

Fr. Jerry also thanked the ad hoc committee for their work over the past months. The presentation slides are available on the PAV website at [www.pontiacarevicariate.org/vpc/vpchome.htm](http://www.pontiacarevicariate.org/vpc/vpchome.htm).

2. Youth Ministry ad hoc committee report: Chris Kozlowski reported on the efforts of this committee. Their objective was to study and recommend activities and programs that will better serve high school youth in the PAV through coordination of efforts. Chris said six of the PAV youth ministers have been meeting regularly for several years to collaborate on programs. This has resulted in successful events – dances, trips to Cedar Point, service projects – that attract larger numbers than any single parish could get. It is also a big help to the youth ministers to only have to coordinate one major event rather than several each year.

Chris addressed the new “Called To Serve” teen training and certification program. He said the committee has discussed the most effective way to offer these sessions around the PAV. Each session requires the presence of a trained facilitator and a youth minister. Chris has spoken to a colleague in another vicariate who has already offered a training session. There were some rough spots that need to be addressed. The recommendation of the Youth ad hoc committee is to rotate training around the PAV starting in July. Bonnie Banaszek added that there are timing issues on how quickly teens need to be trained. Fr. Jerry asked if one class per quarter would be sufficient. The question of when training is needed came up – are volunteers seasonal rather than spread out evenly throughout the year?

Lew suggested that Council members bring this information to their parish councils and report to the VPC next month on the following:

- a. Estimate how many teens your parish needs to certify through Called To Serve training?
- b. How many do you expect to train on an ongoing basis every year?
- c. Best schedule to offer training – time of the year, time of day/week?
- d. Does your parish want to offer Called To Serve sessions on a Vicariate-wide basis or prefer parish-only classes?

The full report from the Youth committee is included at the end of these minutes.

**Action Items**

1. Spring Tri-Vicariate Assembly: Lew reported that he and other Executive Committee members met with Bishop Flores and the vicars from the Thumb and Southwest vicariates on February 19th to discuss the format and objective of the assembly. Bishop Flores stressed a practical approach to the program. He also suggested seating people according to their role in their parish/school/institution. Lew and Fr. Jerry plan to meet with the speaker for the evening, Dr. Patricia Cooney-Hathaway, and develop a theme for her talk. Invitations will be available at the next

VPC meeting. Council members are asked to make sure their parish leadership is aware of the date and planning to attend.

### Reports/ Updates

1. PAV Finance Committee: Paul Borucki distributed a proposed PAV budget for 2008-2009. As promised at the last VPC meeting, it shows a 10.5% reduction in parish subsidies from the current year. Some line items will be funded by using money available from past years that was allocated but never spent. The pastors have already been notified of this proposed budget, which will go into effect July 1, 2008 if approved.
2. Vicar's Report: Fr. Jerry said that after consulting with the other priests in the vicariate, he has agreed to request a one-year extension and serve as vicar until June 2009 if the Council is in agreement. The members present thanked him for his willingness to take this on and will support his request to Cardinal Maida. Fr. Jerry said there are many initiatives underway that he would like to see fulfilled.
3. Pastoral Plan Tracking update: On February 19, members of the Executive Committee reported to the AOD Tracking Committee on our Pastoral Plan progress. Lew said that the presentation went well. All present that night, including Art Seidler and Steve Lawless, agreed that the discussion with the Bishop was very productive. It was noted that Sacramental issues will be more prominent going forward as the work of the Pastoral Care committee moves along.

### Announcements

- Judy said the PAV newsletter will be delivered to parishes this weekend and should be inserted in bulletins.
- Renee St. Dennis announced that Sr. Pat Malone is retiring from St. Joseph Shrine after 20 years of service. There will be an Open House reception in her honor on March 30, 2008 from 12:30-3:30 PM in the parish hall.

The meeting ended at 8:45 PM.

- **Upcoming VPC Meetings: Monday, March 31, 2008 at 7:00 PM, St. John Fisher**
- **Tri-Vicariate Assembly – Tuesday, April 29, 2008, 6:30-9:00 PM ,St. Paul Albanian, 525 W. Auburn Road**
- May 19, 2008 – VPC End of year dinner at St. John Fisher

### Attendance

Cathy Wagner	Archdiocese of Detroit
Mike Harning	Archdiocese of Detroit
Michael McCallion	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
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
Kimberly Dodd	St. John Fisher Parish
Alex Jablonowski	St. John Fisher Parish
Lew Elbert	St. John Fisher Parish
Steve Lawless	St. Joseph Parish
Chris Kozlowski	St. Mary of the Hills
Terry Mike	St. Mary of the Hills
Jack Cashman	St. Mary of the Hills
Fran Ivezaj	St. Paul Albanian

## **2007/2008 Pontiac Area Vicariate Objectives Youth and Young Adult Ad Hoc Committee**

**Objective:** To study and recommend the type of activities and programs that would better serve our high school youth and our schools and parishes through coordination with our parishes and schools.

**Ad Hoc Committee Members:** Rae Stumpf, Melanie Avila, Kathy Fabian, Kathy Galbraith, Ann Meyers and Chris Kozlowski

### **Job description of the Committee:**

- a. Review and study the various programs in our parishes and schools that relate to youth ministry and recommend the type of activities and programs that would better serve our high school youth and our schools and parishes through coordination with our parishes and schools.
- b. Prepare and host a High School Encounter with the help of the AOD.

### ***State of Youth Ministry in the Vicariate Parishes.***

Youth Ministry within this Vicariate has been a topic of discussion for years. The fact that anytime we analyze our Vicariate's ministerial work that youth ministry is always something that is addressed signifies both concern for the YM programs and that there is a slight disconnect between parish YM programs and the Parish at large.

Based on working knowledge of the Vicariate and based on responses from youth directors to various e-mail requests for information it is clear that Youth Ministry is alive within the walls of the Pontiac Area Vicariate. We have many full fledged programs that meet regularly throughout the entire school year. We have programs that include retreat opportunities throughout the year. We have programs that include trips to the annual Rainbow conference sponsored by the Catholic Youth Council. We have programs that include trips to World Youth Day. We have programs that have strong ties to service. We have programs with strong ties to the Parish Community. We have programs that have dedicated space to operate successful youth ministry programs. We have great volunteer, stipend, part-time and full time youth ministers. We have coordination with many of the programs within our Vicariate boundaries. We have no coordination with some parishes within our Vicariate boundaries. We also have programs that have limited financial support. We have programs that have healthy budgets. The more we know about our Parish Youth Ministry programs the less we know about what the vision for Youth Ministry is for the Pontiac Area Vicariate and the Archdiocese of Detroit.

All of the Youth Ministers that have become part of this committee (listed above) work together to coordinate events throughout the year. For years we have coordinated major events together. Each of the Youth Ministry programs takes (minimally) one event that they coordinate year in and year out. This coordination has many benefits. One, kids love to be together in large groups. A Lock-in with 100 attendees is more fun and affordable than a lock-in with 20. Service opportunities with 100 are more powerful than service opportunities with 10. Having each YM coordinator plan one major event a year, as opposed to 8 or 10, makes much better use of time and resources of the Vicariate Parishes. In the 2007-2008 calendar year we have planned many events as a Vicariate. We have planned a road rally, a Monty Python/Sacramental themed lock-in, a Valentine's Day Mass and dance, a 24-Hour Fast, and a Cedar Point Trip. The Youth Ministers of the Vicariate are invited and encouraged to plan monthly planning meetings that help coordinate all of this information. We have had representatives from many of the Parishes of the PAV attend these meetings, and there are also Parishes that we have not seen at all.

Based on this information we feel that there are opportunities to grow as a Vicariate. We will remain diligent in inviting the Parish Communities into the fold. We will continue to offer many events as both individual Parishes and as a Vicariate. We'd like to further study budgets and do a comparative analysis on program budgets compared to program success.

### ***The Encounter***

As a committee we entertained the idea of an encounter at the beginning of the fiscal year. We know that this is a recommendation of the VPC as something we should do for the Vicariate. We also know that the AOD is a recommended ally in helping make this occur. Some Parishes within the Vicariate have planned Encounters for their Parish. Other programs have taken portions of the Encounter and worked them into meetings. Overall my feeling was that there was no desire to add an event such as this Encounter. There is no denying that it could be a useful event, if properly sponsored and attended. The overall feeling of the group was it would be another event that would be hard to fit in the Vicariate YM schedule. We have experienced some resistance from the youth to travel to far for events. Members of St. Joseph's Parish are less likely to come to events at St. Mary of the Hills and vice versa. Some of the Youth Ministers are in preliminary discussion with Parishes that are geographically closer to them; for example St. Joseph's with Christ the Redeemer (within our Vicariate) and St. Dan's Parish.

***Called To Serve***

The Called To Serve initiative has been addressed as well. Beginning the fiscal year 2008 we are entertaining having each Parish within the Vicariate plan one CTS program a year. If we plan this properly we will essentially offer one CTS program every month. If only the YM programs that are currently participating in Vicariate discussions offer the programs we would still have one CTS program every other month. Despite deadlines on when this initiative is to take place we do not feel overwhelmingly that we want to proceed until all of the kinks of a first year program have been ironed out. This assertion is based on discussions with other Parishes who have held CTS training already.

***Current Use of Vicariate Funding***

We are currently using Vicariate funding to help support each parish by paying for the Youth Ministry Access Program. This program is a wonderful resource that is regularly updated and always on point. We have also approached the Vicar with bids on purchasing a Vicariate Trailer that would essentially be rotated amongst parishes to do various service programs. The bids that we received varied from about \$1,800-\$2600. We would also like to purchase tools and other wares that each parish could use. This would save on duplicated money spent on similar items. We feel that this would be a HUGE step forward to unite Youth Ministry within the Vicariate.