



Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes
May 19, 2008
Meeting held at St. John Fisher

The meeting began at 6:30 PM with a prayer led by Janet Dinsmoore.

Focus Item

VPC Year in Review : Lew directed everyone's attention to the "Pontiac Area Vicariate Pastoral Council 2007-8 Year End Report" that was in their packet. Prepared by Steve Lawless, this document summarizes the efforts and accomplishments of the VPC during the past year.

Steve then went through the report in detail with the Council. He explained the five continuing operations (ACTS: A Call To Serve, Youth Ministry, Genesis Ministries, Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT) and Crittenton Hospital Chaplaincy), three projects (Vision 2000 ongoing maintenance and processing, PAV Hispanic Pastoral Plan implementation, and Pastoral Care of the Sick implementation), and ongoing communication and administrative activities that keep the VPC busy.

In addition to listing the numbers -- people served, dollars spent, newsletters printed, assemblies attended, etc.-- the report "fleshes out" these figures with stories of real people behind the numbers. Steve explained how the VPC has functioned in past years by identifying a need, developing a procedure (usually an ad hoc committee), working on the objective and reporting to the VPC. He anticipates that this same process will be used next year by the 2008-09 VPC.

The Council was impressed with both all that has been accomplished this year and by Steve's complete summary. Joe Pauwels, who will be joining the VPC next year, said the report is very helpful to new members. Art Seidler spoke to the value of CCRT as a model for other vicariates to use when developing multi-parish efforts. He related a personal experience referring someone in need to CCRT and how helpful it was to have somewhere to turn in the PAV. Dianne Bubnar said that having Genesis Ministry is a benefit to all parishes and young adults in the PAV.

The complete year-end report is appended to these minutes and available on the PAV website www.pontiacarevicariate.org.

Action Items

1. Youth Ministry Trailer Proposal: Chris Kozlowski, Youth Minister at St. Mary of the Hills, presented a proposal for purchasing a trailer that can be shared by all youth ministers in the PAV. This proposal was requested by the VPC at their February 2008 meeting when Chris gave an update on the Youth Ministry ad hoc committee. At that meeting, Chris requested that the VPC consider buying an enclosed single-axle trailer as a way to save money and unite the PAV youth ministries. His proposal included information on the purchase price, storage considerations, ownership, insurance, maintenance, and usage. At present, there are four major projects in the PAV each year that would use the trailer and other possibilities in the future.

Some questions that came up included:

- Title and storage – Chris suggested the parish of the vicar, but since that changes at regular intervals he agreed to have St. Mary of the Hills assume this role.
- He will develop a rental agreement/set of procedures that will spell out fees, scheduling, who can use the trailer, log for maintenance and condition, etc.
- The person in charge, Chris for now, will report to the VPC each year on the usage of the trailer. This will provide a way for future Councils to be made aware of this resource.

- Chris stated that nothing of value will be stored inside the trailer, which will be kept outside at St. Mary of the Hills.
- There were several ideas on how to paint or sign the trailer to identify it as a form of marketing.

Chris was authorized to proceed with a budget of \$2500, with his agreement to include the recommendations listed above.

Reports/ Updates

1. Vicar's Report: Cathy Wagner reported in Fr. Jerry's absence on the information the Parish Life office has prepared for the Vicariates. Statistics on priests in the Archdiocese, demographic profiles, and the paid parish employee status report were distributed. These documents and additional information is available on the AOD website at www.aodonline.org.
2. Hispanic Pastoral Plan ad hoc committee: Lew read a report sent by committee chair Santiago Fernandez. The committee is currently working to identify Hispanic leadership at PAV parishes. They are also excited that St. Mary of the Hills is starting a Spanish Mass on the first Friday of each month and that Hispanic leadership at that church is surfacing.
3. Pastoral Care of the Sick ad hoc committee: Lew summarized a report sent in by committee Chair Deacon Alex Jablonowski. In addition to providing general findings from their latest survey, the committee is requesting that the VPC consider their proposal for a PAV Pastoral Care of the Sick Coordinator staff position. A detailed and comprehensive job description was included. The Council had many questions on this and since neither Alex nor Fr. Jerry was present it will have to be addressed at a future meeting. Lew will contact Alex and Fr. Jerry and Judy will email information to the VPC if appropriate.

Open Forum/Communications

1. Regional Assembly Recap: Comments from the group on the April 29th assembly of five vicariates:
 - Cathy Wagner said Bishop Flores was very impressed at the participation and overall assembly. It was an important step in cracking "parochialism" and working together to share resources.
 - Some felt more table discussion time was needed.
 - Dr. Cooney-Hathaway was wonderful – would not want to forego a keynote address
 - Young adults were not well represented – perhaps another assembly could address them more effectively.
 - Feedback from parish attendees has been positive – table groupings were very effective.
2. The PAV summer newsletter will be delivered to parishes the weekend of June 7/8. Council members are asked to make sure the newsletters are inserted in parish bulletins.
3. There are currently twelve Called To Serve teen training sessions scheduled in the AOD, including one on June 19, 2008 at Sacred Heart of the Hills. Contact Ann Meyers (annmeyers@esacredheart.org) for more information. Other sessions are listed at: <http://www.aodonline.org/AODOnline/AOD+Calendar+6923/Called+to+Serve+16173/Called+to+Serve.htm>, or go to www.aodonline.org and click on "Safe Environments."
4. St. Mary of the Hills has openings in their preschool program. Contact Terry Mike (tamike11@comcast.net) for information.

The meeting ended at 7:50 PM and was followed by a dinner celebration.

Upcoming VPC Meetings

August 11, 2008 – New Member Orientation

September 22, 2008

Fall Assembly: October 27, 2008 at Sacred Heart of the Hills

November 24, 2008, January 26, 2009, February 23, 2009

Spring Assembly March 23, 2009 at St. Benedict /Marist Academy Lower school

April 27, 2009, May 18, 2009

Attendance

Cathy Wagner	Archdiocese of Detroit
Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Rakhi Roy	Genesis Ministries
Tom Donahoo	OCC/LTU Campus YA
Bonnie Banaszek	Pastoral Ministers' Association
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Carmen Rodriguez	Pontiac Catholic Community
Frank Rodriguez	Pontiac Catholic Community
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart Parish
Dianne Bubnar	St. Andrew Parish
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew Parish
Cathy Settle	St. Benedict Parish
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus Parish
Joe Pauwels	St. John Fisher Parish
Lew Elbert	St. John Fisher Parish
Dawy Gonzalez-Ruiz	St. John Fisher Parish
Steve Lawless	St. Joseph Parish
Terry Mike	St. Mary of the Hills
Jack Cashman	St. Mary of the Hills
Chris Kozlowski	St. Mary of the Hills
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian

Pontiac Area Vicariate Pastoral Council 2007-8 Year End Report
May 19, 2008
Written by Steve Lawless

*Together we pray that through our efforts the five talents entrusted to us
have delivered an acceptable return to our master.*

This progress report of the 2007-8 operational year of the PAV Pastoral Council is a testament to the dedicated service and efforts of the many participating representatives and ministry leaders who, under the coordination and guidance of Vicar Jerry Brzezinski and Chairperson Lew Elbert, have helped make visible the presence of Christ in our Area Church.

The Pontiac Area Vicariate (PAV) Pastoral Council extends a heartfelt thank you to all of the Parishes, Schools, Agencies and Institutions of the Vicariate for their continued support. The funding and representatives that they provide to the Vicariate supports the planning, development, and operation of the programs and services best thought to benefit from a shared Vicariate-wide approach. These programs not only service our constituents but also extend the reach of our ministries beyond our own parishes and organizations and beyond our Vicariate borders in a way that would not be otherwise possible.

The Vicariate activities summarized within this report provide a broad view of the progress in the efforts of the PAV to coordinate the gifts and needs of our Area Church. What this summary cannot do is detail the tremendous value of the donated funds and efforts or the remarkable impact of these efforts on those in need.

Barbara Williams, from the Catholic Community Response Team, provides an example glimpse into the lives behind the numbers.

“A mother with 6 dependents came to CCRT with an eviction judgment from the court. She has two children of her own and is caring for four other family members’ children during a crisis situation. She attends college full time and works part time while caring for her family. She got behind on her rent due to wages lost due to lack of transportation. Her car needed a repair. She was unable to get to work and ended up losing her job. She has since secured a new and better paying job. CCRT was able to help her pay off her car repair thru our grant with the Rochester Women’s Community Grant and, thru various partners such as TEAM Center in Birmingham and local support, her eviction payment was satisfied.”

PAV 2007-8 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2007-8, the Vicariate supported five continuing operations, three projects (one in-process long-range project, two new ministry project initiatives), and a host of administrative and communication activities.

Vicariate Operations:

The five continuing operational ministries supported in 2007-8 were:

1. A Call To Serve (ACTS) – The need to train lay volunteer ministers throughout the Vicariate was first recognized in the development of the Archdiocese of Detroit (AOD) Together-in-Faith plan (2005-6) for the Vicariate. Since its implementation in 2006, the ACTS training course has had a steady increase in students from ministries inside and outside the Vicariate. In the 2007-8 operating year, 104 lay ministers received training (compared with 36 in 2006-7 and 19 in 2005-6).

2. Youth Ministry – The implementation of the PAV Youth Minister and Program Plan began in 2006-7 with the goal of bringing together the youth ministers of the PAV and unifying them as a team. In 2007-8, youth ministry collaboration and coordination continues within the Vicariate

bringing teens (and families of teens) together in shared prayer and worship, service, and community life. Youth ministers across six parishes have been meeting regularly to collaborate on programs. This has resulted in successful events – dances, trips to Cedar Point, and service projects – that attract larger numbers than could be done at any single parish. It is also helpful to the youth ministers who each only have to coordinate one major event, rather than several, each year.

3. Genesis Ministry – PAV continues to support the Oakland County-wide Young Adult Genesis Ministries. Genesis continues to reach out very effectively to single and married young adults between 18-35 years old in the 59 parishes in Oakland County. By collaborating with exciting programs at campus and parish levels, and providing a foundation for future growth to address young adults' spiritual and social needs, Genesis seeks to connect young adults to other young adults and the Catholic Church in the Oakland County area.

4. Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT) - The Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT), founded in 2004 by the Pontiac Area Vicariate, provides direct referral and support services. They work to build a permanent bridge between two populations who live in close proximity, but whose life experiences are worlds apart: those in crisis with urgent, unmet needs and volunteers wanting to live out their faith through the works of charity and justice. In 2007-8, with \$34,000 in support from the AOD and PAV, the CCRT provided coordinated assistance to 534 adults and 142 children to resolve approximately \$136,000.00 worth of critical financial need.

By the numbers:

235	Food Requests	100	Evictions Prevented
51	New Housing - Security Deposit Support	291	Clothing
85	Help with Utility Payments	45	Job Inquiries
193	Household Goods and Furniture	5	Automobile Repair
58	Identification Documents	15	Prescription Expense
24	Eyeglasses (Gift of Sight)		

By the lives: As reported by CCRT Director Barb Williams: *“In terms of real people, gosh so many stories... People laid off from work, single moms in job programs, domestic violence victims, men and women with mental health issues, disabled persons living on \$636 a month (basic payment) trying to pay rent, utilities, buy food and gas. They are all heart-wrenching stories. State aid has been cut back and more people are looking for charitable support. Example: Last year the state paid \$550 for low-income utility support, this year they paid only \$350. Food stamp issuance has gone down and the price of food has gone up.”* *“Please thank all the Vicariate parishes for their support. We couldn't extend the aid we do without them!”*

5. Crittenton Chaplaincy - Spiritual Care is available to patients and families from the Crittenton Hospital Chaplain. In 2007-8, the PAV continued with its share of supporting this ministry.

Vicariate Projects:

The need for Catholic Education in the Vicariate through our Catholic Schools was recognized and addressed through the Vision 2000 plan. This long-term project has resulted in the expansion of our four Vicariate elementary schools. With the building complete, the administrative effort remains to manage the pledges through to completion.

Vision 2000 Project – In 2007-8, the vicariate continued execution of the original Vicariate Vision 2000 plan collecting nearly \$700,000 in pledged contributions to remain on schedule to retire the loans associated with this investment.

In 2007-8, the PAV began two Ad-Hoc committees to address additional vicariate needs: **1)** The implementation of the PAV Hispanic Pastoral Plan and **2)** The refinement and implementation of the PAV Pastoral Care & Spirituality Plan.

PAV Hispanic Pastoral Plan Implementation - There is a need to respond to the growing needs of the Hispanic Community. In 2007-8, a PAV Ad-Hoc Committee has been working to encourage parishes to use existing Hispanic groups and AOD development models to move forward in their goal of integrating Hispanics into parishes. Activities included:

- Bulletin announcements/invitations in Spanish
- Identification of Hispanic leadership currently involved in PAV parishes
- Spanish Versions of the PAV newsletter
- Information about CSSOC Hispanic Outreach services at PAV parishes
- Inclusion of Spanish/bilingual liturgical songs at PAV parishes
- Information about Spanish/bilingual resources for PAV Directors of Religious Education.
- Articles for the PAV newsletter to help dissipate animosity toward undocumented Hispanic population
- Parish-centered activities for women, many of whom are home without transportation

PAV Pastoral Care & Spirituality Plan Implementation – The Vicariate plan is to develop a Vicariate-wide approach to pastoral care in light of declining availability of ordained ministers and to develop better communications among parishes. Working within the framework of the previous year's "**Report on the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick,**" and with the support of specially assigned Deacon Alex Jablonowski, the Ad Hoc committee completed a 2007-8 Pastoral Care Survey, "**The View from the Pew.**" With this analysis, they are now working to implement the plan and service coordination in the 2008-9 year.

Vicariate Administrative And Communication Activities:

In the spirit of the mission of the Pontiac Area Vicariate, "To represent the Catholic communities of the Pontiac Area Vicariate, and through our collaboration, to better serve the ministries we share", we have endeavored to provide enhanced Vicariate communication. Vicariate Pastoral Council representatives, who report to and from their parishes, schools, agencies, and institutions, serve as the primary communication conduit to enable our collaboration. Additional communication this year was enabled through the PAV website, four 2007-8 PAV newsletters and two PAV Leadership Assemblies.

PAV Website – The PAV website is located at "**www.pontiacareavicariate.org**". It contains the most comprehensive view of all PAV activities, plans and information. Members of our area church are encouraged to use this forum to learn about their vicariate as well as to communicate their own ministry activities to the Area Church.

PAV Newsletters – The newsletters are focused communications to our Vicariate Catholics. Distributed through parish bulletins and other manual means they are intended to provide a broad communication of current and recently passed Vicariate activities of interest in a friendly medium. In 2007-8 four quarterly newsletters were published.

PAV Leadership Assemblies – The PAV hosts two leadership assemblies each year to address the chartered tasks of: promoting pastoral plan coordination, enhancing communications and networking, and promoting collegiality and collaboration.

- In fall, 2007, the PAV "**Christian Service Activity Coordination Assembly**" engaged over 100 vicariate leaders to discuss better coordination in the use and support of the Christian Service Activities and Social Agency Programs that are already available for those we serve. The discussions were centered on major presentations from Marge Huggard (Catholic Social Services of Oakland County) and Barbara Williams (Catholic Community Response Team) and shorter presentations from several other community service providers.
- In spring, 2008, the PAV Assembly, entitled "**Discerning Ministry and Leadership in the Church outside Our Window,**" engaged leadership from the five vicariates newly assigned as a Region under Bishop Flores. Over 250 area church leaders reflected on and discussed the

keynote address of Dr. Patricia Cooney-Hathaway and the comments of Bishop Flores. Organized at tables by the ministry of choice, they shared experiences of their ministry's joys and challenges in the context of the presented themes.

PAV 2007-8 Summary

The Pontiac Area Vicariate has diligently continued to pursue its mission, to be responsive to the ministry of its parishes, schools, institutions, and agencies by:

- Coordinating pastoral planning
- Enhancing communications and networking
- Promoting collegiality and collaboration
- Identifying and utilizing all resources which can be shared

2007-8 has been a year of blessings and challenges. Through continuing support and feedback of our member organizations, we have made steady progress to help improve the capability and reach of their ministries. We are grateful for their support and the opportunity to serve our Area Church.

As the 2008-9 year approaches, we pray that our continued collaboration as the body of Christ in Oakland County will help transform our world.