



Fall Pontiac Area Vicariate Assembly
October 6, 2008
Meeting held at Sacred Heart of the Hills Parish

Welcome

Steve Lawless, Vicariate Pastoral Council Chair, welcomed everyone to the Assembly promptly at 7:00 PM. He introduced Deacon Joe Karle who led the group in an opening prayer. Brittany Johnson sang two songs, accompanied on piano by her brother, Brendan Johnson. Steve read Luke's gospel of the good Samaritan then introduced the evening's speaker, Jill Rauh.

Keynote Address

Jill began her address by reviewing Pope Benedict's first encyclical. This document declares that love of God is not separate from love of others/neighbors. The encyclical further explains that if humans are reflections of God, then both we and our neighbors are reflections of God. Loving our neighbor must be done within society and the social doctrines of the Church. Jill stated that an intrinsic part of this social doctrine are the complementary concepts of charity and justice. Charity involves immediate responses to specific needs while justice addresses the larger structural issues that cause these needs. Both charity and justice are necessary in living out the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching.

Jill spent most of her presentation explaining the Faithful Citizenship document developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Major themes of Faithful Citizenship include:

- Call to participate in promoting the common good and using the voice of the Church to protect the weak and vulnerable.
- Need for the Church to play a role in political life.
- Formation of conscience and how we make decisions. This requires an ongoing and lifelong effort.
- Affirmation of the moral framework defined by Catholic Social Teaching.
- Obligations of the faithful to promote good and oppose evil.

With specific regard to public policy and political life, the Faithful Citizenship document lists seven key themes for providing a moral framework. They are:

1. The right to life and the dignity of the human person.
2. Call to family, community, and participation.
3. Basic rights and responsibilities for all humans including: food, shelter, education, employment, health care, housing.
4. Options for the poor and vulnerable – special treatment for those in greatest need.
5. Dignity of work and the rights of workers.
6. Solidarity with the one human family.
7. Caring for God's creation and protecting it for future generations.

Two temptations exist in addressing these concerns – moral equivalence and moral indifference. The first is the inability to draw distinctions between issues while the latter involves the misuse of distinctions to suit a particular leaning.

To conclude her talk, Jill suggested ways for individuals and communities to take action. Some examples are community organizations such as MOSES, bulletin articles, Justice and Peace groups, lobbying elected officials, and personal prayer. Jill encouraged everyone to find more information on the Faithful Citizenship website, www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

Table Discussion and Feedback

After a brief break, attendees gathered at tables to discuss various real-life scenarios concerning "Who is my neighbor?" Some of the suggested topics addressed challenges in seeing others as one's neighbor, awareness of and solidarity with neighbors near and far, conscience formation, and issues related specifically to the upcoming elections. Steve facilitated a brief summary from the small groups to the entire audience.

Conclusion

PAV Vicar Fr. Jerry Brzezinski thanked everyone for coming and Sacred Heart of the Hills for hosting the event. He specifically thanked the Vicariate Pastoral Council committee that planned and organized the event: Kit Wojcik, Joe Pauwels, Janet Dinsmoore and Steve Lawless. Fr. Jerry concluded by reading the gospel of the Good Samaritan again, with a slight change to highlight the election.

The program concluded at 9:10PM with closing prayer and songs.

Attendance

Barb Williams	CCRT
Rene Bryce	Christ the Redeemer
Fr. Joe Dailey	Christ the Redeemer
Linda Guldi	Christ the Redeemer
Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer
Karen Swietlik	Christ the Redeemer
Dale Youngpeter	Christ the Redeemer
Marge Huggard	CSSOC
Rakhi Roy	Genesis Ministries
Sr. Karen Hawver	Holy Family Regional School
Carla Vandercruyssen	Holy Family Regional School
Sandy Favrow	Marist Academy
Peggy Devaney, ihm	Oakland Jail Ministry
Tom Donahoo	Campus Ministry at OCC/LTU
Judy Gordon	PAV
Al Bolin	Pontiac Catholic Community
Chris Elkins	Pontiac Catholic Community
Rosa Lemos	Pontiac Catholic Community
Pat Lindley	Pontiac Catholic Community
Edward Padilla	Pontiac Catholic Community
Renee St. Dennis	Pontiac Catholic Community
Fr. Sean Sylvester	Pontiac Catholic Community
Luis Vasquez	Pontiac Catholic Community
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Carmen Guzman	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Jim Johnson	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Deacon Joe Karle	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Michael Kurkowski	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Mary Alice Merlo	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Ann Meyers	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Audrey Patterson	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Joyce Popson	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Marguerite Rouleau	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Michael Stach	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Ann Thomas	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Debbie VanNieulande	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Judy Webb	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Dottie Weir	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Ray White	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Ron Anderson	St. Andrew
Dianne Bubnar	St. Andrew
Alyson Denyers	St. Andrew
Valerie Fournier	St. Andrew
Rick Fournier	St. Andrew
Mary Johnson	St. Andrew
Tim Johnson	St. Andrew
Brendan Johnson	St. Andrew
Brittany Johnson	St. Andrew
Juanita Mallmann	St. Andrew
Richard Saad	St. Andrew

Leah Smarsch	St. Andrew
Joe Soncrant	St. Andrew
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew
Bonnie Banaszek	St. Benedict
Karen Borgeson	St. Benedict
Sue Camilleri	St. Benedict
Connie Cunningham	St. Benedict
Rochelle Flanigan	St. Benedict
Grace Imbrunone	St. Benedict
Fr. Tom Kuehnemund	St. Benedict
Gregg Peterson	St. Benedict
Cathy Settle	St. Benedict
Tom Govern	St. Irenaeus
Theresa Mungioli	St. Irenaeus
Dahlvin Peterson	St. Irenaeus
Fr. Frank Pollie	St. Irenaeus
Nancy Seidler	St. Irenaeus
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus
Teresa Stayer	St. Irenaeus
Ron Valade	St. Irenaeus
Judy Beyer	St. John Fisher
Paul Borucki	St. John Fisher
Fr. Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher
Dawy Gonzalez-Ruiz	St. John Fisher
Beth Kudla	St. John Fisher
Joe Pauwels	St. John Fisher
Michelle Pittel	St. John Fisher
Nancy Ritter	St. John Fisher
Julie Rogier	St. John Fisher
John Calkins	St. Joseph
Kathy Hasty	St. Joseph
Steve Lawless	St. Joseph
Mary Martin	St. Joseph
Fr. Mike Verschaeve	St. Joseph
Joan Cashman	St. Mary of the Hills
Jack Cashman	St. Mary of the Hills
Peggy Casing	St. Mary of the Hills
Terry Mike	St. Mary of the Hills
Dee Valade	St. Mary of the Hills
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian