



Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes
October 27, 2008
Meeting held at St. John Fisher

The meeting began at 7:05 PM with a prayer led by Gregg Peterson.

Introduction

Steve Lawless announced that Jack Cashman has agreed to become VPC Vice-Chair for this year and assume the role of Chair next year. The members present introduced themselves and indicated one major effort that their parish has recently accomplished.

Jack Cashman	St. Mary of the Hills appealed to parishioners to contribute to the CSA and driveway repair project in one donation. The parish met their CSA goal and has a substantial excess to begin resurfacing.
Joe Pauwels Dawy Gonzalez- Ruiz	St. John Fisher's parish council worked on the goal "increasing meaningful involvement of parishioners" and achieved a 13% overall increase.
Art Seidler Ron Valade	St. Irenaeus has begun a process of long-range parish planning; Youth group and new senior groups are growing and active; Parish celebrated its 40th anniversary.
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew's career ministry is very successful. Good leadership has resulted in a vibrant group of professionals and volunteers who assist with job referrals, career coaching, and mentoring. They have received several media reviews. The meetings attract job-seekers from a wide area.
Bonnie Banaszek Gregg Peterson	St. Benedict has recently started a Knights of Columbus group. Parish has clarified and enhanced their relationship with Marist Academy, housed in the former St. Benedict elementary school.
Jan Lumetta Dale Youngpeter	Christ the Redeemer has started a Stewards of the Earth environmental committee. Every parish activity is trying to become more "green" through conservation, recycling, etc.
Fr. Jerry	The Vicars in the AOD are revising the Parish Pastoral Council document this year.
Paul Borucki	St. John Fisher is starting work on a lighting and chapel renovation project.
Alex Jablonowski	The PAV Pastoral Care implementation plan is ready to present to the PAV.
Steve Lawless	St. Joseph has completed work on a comprehensive parish pastoral plan. They have developed a mission statement and long-range goals. The parish website has been expanded.

Focus Items for Discussion

Hispanic Catholic Gathering - Dawy Gonzalez-Ruiz reported that this event is still in the initial planning stage. He distributed an outline with ideas on where the event could be held, who would attend, and what activities may take place. He will call everyone on the Hispanic Catholic Gathering committee to schedule a meeting. Feedback from the VPC included:

- Location? Hispanic parish, probably St. Michael, or “neutral” location. Pros and cons either way.
- Mass-Cultural Exhibits-Food: likely elements of event
- When? Around Hispanic feast day (different ones for various countries of origin), Easter, or open date. Whatever date is chosen, it needs to be planned well in advance.
- Who should attend? Again, pros and cons were discussed. If the objective is to allow area Hispanics to meet and openly discuss issues of importance to them, perhaps minimizing the non-Hispanic attendance is appropriate. If the objective is to showcase Hispanic culture and people, then the reverse applies and non-Hispanic attendance should be encouraged.
- Consider making this event the Fall Assembly for 2009.

Dawy will take this input to the committee meeting and report back to the VPC in November.

Pastoral Care Implementation Plan – Deacon Alex Jablonowski presented a proposed chart of how requests for Pastoral Care can be addressed. The goal is to drastically reduce the unscheduled requests for anointing and other services and have procedures in place to handle the requests that do occur. Some of the ways this can be done include:

- Regular parish anointing opportunities, advertised on the PAV website and in parish bulletins.
- Coordinated PAV schedule for the sacrament of anointing of the sick. This will include one or two “on call” priests.
- Answering service and procedures to handle requests for hospital anointing
- Education effort via website, video links, etc. on sacrament of anointing, viaticum, and pastoral visits. This could take the form of a “Frequently Asked Questions” handout and web page.

The next step is a meeting on November 18th with PAV and other area priests to present the implementation plan. In addition to coordinating with area priests and parishes, hospitals and other care facilities will need to be engaged.

Parish Cluster Assignments – Fr. Jerry explained that all vicariates must send a list of parish cluster partners to the AOD Tracking Committee. To comply with this, the following PAV assignments are suggested, based solely on geography:

- Christ the Redeemer and St. Joseph
- Pontiac Catholic Community (already clustered)
- St. Andrew and St. Mary of the Hills
- St. John Fisher and St. Irenaeus
- Sacred Heart of the Hills and St. Benedict

This in no way implies these assignments are set in stone, although the reality is that some clustering will likely take place as priests retire.

Action Items

Keep the Dream Alive nomination – One nomination was submitted. Steve asked if any others were available or in the works. Since none were, the Council unanimously endorsed the nomination of Louise Borucki from St. John Fisher parish.

Finance Committee Membership – PAV Finance manager Paul Borucki stated that the current committee members are Terry Mike, Steve Lawless, and himself. Steve was a member in his role as VPC Vice Chair and will now be replaced on the committee by Jack Cashman. Gregg Peterson and Joe Pauwels offered to serve as well. They will provide oversight to the financial affairs of the PAV and the remaining Vision 2000 campaign.

Sacred Heart Anniversary program – Sacred Heart of the Hills will celebrate their 50th anniversary and the retirement of Fr. Jim Mayworm with a commemorative book. The PAV will take out a small ad congratulating the parish and Fr. Jim and make a donation of \$100 in their honor to the Catholic Community Response Team. Judy will handle all the details.

Reports/Updates

Vicar's Report – Fr. Jerry encouraged everyone to read the minutes that are emailed to the Council. He elaborated on the discussion that took place concerning CSA funding. The parishes that contribute the most to the CSA are the ones that are feeling the pain of the current economic climate. Another topic of discussion was funeral practices across the AOD. The vicars suggested developing a set of guidelines that can be given out across the diocese.

Ad Hoc Report: PAV Hispanic Pastoral Plan – Dawy reported that this ad hoc committee is continuing with the suggestions from last year – bulletin and web information; Spanish songs, etc. He will contact all committee members by phone and ask if they wish to continue on the committee. If necessary, he will work with Steve to find some new members. He will schedule a meeting and report back to the VPC at the November meeting.

Finance committee quarterly report – Paul distributed a PAV 2008-09 Financial report and briefly explained a few key points. CCRT has lost funding from a major donor. The Crittenton Hospital chaplain expense is reduced for the PAV. Council members are encouraged to contact Paul if they want more information.

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council – Art said the proposed all-vicariate assembly is unlikely to happen this year.

Open Forum/Communications

- Judy will send out PAV acronyms
- Dawy attended the last ACTS training and encouraged everyone to both attend and spread the word. He said this program is a treasure and should have much higher attendance.

The meeting ended at 9:05 PM.

Upcoming VPC Meetings

VPC Meetings: **November 24**, January 26, February 23

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

VPC Meetings: April 27, 2009, May 18, 2009

Attendance

Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Dale Youngpeter	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Bonnie Banaszek	Pastoral Ministers' Association
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Paul Borucki	PAV Business Manager
Alex Jablonowski	PAV Chaplain
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew Parish
Gregg Peterson	St. Benedict Parish
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus
Ron Valade	St. Irenaeus
Fr. Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher Parish
Joe Pauwels	St. John Fisher Parish
Dawy Gonzalez-Ruiz	St. John Fisher Parish
Steve Lawless	St. Joseph Parish
Jack Cashman	St. Mary of the Hills