



## Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes August 17, 2009 Meeting held at St. Mary of the Hills

The meeting began at 7:02 PM. Mark Joyce led the group in an opening prayer.

### **Introduction**

Fr. Jerry welcomed everyone and thanked them for their willingness to serve on the Vicariate Pastoral Council. He explained that his term as vicar was officially extended until September 30th due to the reorganization that is taking place in the Archdiocese of Detroit. He anticipates that a new vicar will be appointed in September.

Everyone present introduced themselves and said what parish or group they represented and how long they had served on the VPC.

Steve Lawless, last year's VPC Chair, gave a thorough review of the Vicariate Pastoral Council guidelines and operating procedures. He explained what the Pontiac Area Vicariate is, why it exists, who the members are, and how it operates. Steve also detailed the groups that interact with the PAV, including the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC), the Pastoral Ministers' Association (PMA), the VPC Executive Committee, and the PMA Planning Team. Finally, he went over the membership responsibilities and terms of office for Council members. More information can be found in the booklet "Guidelines and Operating Procedures" and in Steve's presentation slides, both of which are available online at [www.pontiacarevicariate.org](http://www.pontiacarevicariate.org).

Steve then invited everyone to gather in one of three small groups for the purpose of meeting the new Council members. This allowed returning VPC members to share information and answer questions on how the PAV functions.

### **Pastoral Plan / Together In Faith**

The next topic was the PAV Pastoral Plan and Together In Faith, a strategic five-year plan for parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Steve explained that parishes, schools, and vicariates throughout the Archdiocese have evaluated themselves and suggested how they might fit into the strategic plan. The PAV plan's three focus areas (Sacramental, Strategic, Sustainable) and ten associated goals continue to provide the foundation for the VPC yearly objectives. Progress to these goals is tracked within the PAV Pastoral Plan.

Fr. Jerry thanked Steve for his work over the past several years in setting up VPC structures and operating procedures. Fr. Jerry introduced Jack Cashman, new Council Chair, and Vice-Chair Denise Donaldson. Jack explained the goals and objectives for the coming year. Most of these items are worked on via ad hoc committees. The committees and objectives for the coming year are:

1. Hispanic Ad Hoc Committee
2. Pastoral Care Ad Hoc Committee
3. Permanent Deacon Study Ad Hoc Committee
4. Youth Ministry Ad-Hoc Committee
5. Fall 2009 Assembly Ad Hoc Committee
6. Spring 2010 Assembly Ad Hoc Committee
7. PAV Services Operations Committee
8. VPC Executive Committee Communication

Full details on these goals and committees, including reporting dates and committee membership, is available on the PAV website under VPC Documents, "2009-2010 VPC Goals and Objectives." The new members present, Mark Joyce, Jerry Dywasuk, and Alejandra Medina indicated what area they would like to participate in.

Judy Gordon, PAV Administrative Assistant, explained a few details about VPC meetings. Council members take turns providing opening and closing prayers and light refreshments. A schedule for the year was handed out, along with a VPC member roster and list of meeting dates. Judy also explained that Council members are asked to arrange the insertion of the PAV quarterly newsletter in their parish bulletins. The next newsletter will arrive at

parishes with the August 29/30 weekend bulletin. *It is very important that the newsletter is inserted that weekend due to the timeliness of the Hispanic Gathering.* Judy encouraged anyone to contact her if they ever need information or assistance on anything PAV-related.

**New Business**

Joe Pauwels brought the group up to date on the PAV Hispanic Gathering. This first-ever event will be held on Sunday, September 6 from 3-7 PM at St. Mary of the Hills parish. Bishop Daniel Flores will say mass in English and Spanish, followed by brief information presentations from PAV parishes and a social gathering. Joe asked for assistance from the VPC with the following items:

- Make sure that the Hispanic Gathering is promoted at your parish (bulletin article, flyers, etc.), preferably in English and Spanish. Judy will send out the media release documents to Council members.
- All VPC members are asked to get any information they can on the number who will be attending from their parish (we realize this is difficult - do the best you can).
- Information Sharing: Joe also asked for details on any Hispanic masses/prayer groups/ women's groups/etc. that may be available at parishes. If someone from that parish is present at the Gathering, they can announce it. If not, send the information to Joe ([joseph.pauwels@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joseph.pauwels@sbcglobal.net)) and he will share it at the Gathering.
- Food: The committee is concerned about what food to provide. One problem is money, or lack thereof, and the other is quantity. The group discussed this and offered these suggestions:
  - Rakhi Roy offered some money from the Genesis Ministries budget as well as a contact to someone who owns a restaurant. She will follow up with Joe.
  - Fr. Jerry said that the tradition is for the hosting parish to provide food for PAV Assemblies. Since this is a slightly different type of event, there may be some funds available from the Hispanic Pastoral Plan budget category. Joe will contact Fr. Jerry for more information.

Fr. Jerry thanked everyone again for their service to the Pontiac Area Vicariate. The meeting ended at 9:10 PM with a closing prayer.

**Future VPC Meetings**

**Council Meetings: September 28, 2009 at 7:00 PM at St. John Fisher**

November 23, 2009, January 25, 2010, February 22, 2010, April 26, 2010, May 24, 2010

**Assemblies:** October 26, 2009 at St. Andrew Parish

March 11, 2010 at St. Paul Albanian (Tentative)

**Attendance**

Dale Youngpeter	Christ the Redeemer
Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer
Rakhi Roy	Genesis Ministries
Cathy Wagner	AOD Parish Life Department
Bonnie Banaszek	Pastoral Ministers' Assoc.
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Dianne Bubnar	St. Andrew
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew
Cathy Settle	St. Benedict
Alejandra Medina	St. Damien of Molokai
Deacon Ron Valade	St. Irenaeus
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus
Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher
Joe Pauwels	St. John Fisher
Dawy Gonzalez-Ruiz	St. John Fisher
Denise Donaldson	St. Joseph, Lake Orion

Jerry Dywasuk	St. Joseph, Lake Orion
Jack Cashman	St. Mary of the Hills
Mark Joyce	St. Mary of the Hills
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian