



Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes
November 23, 2009
Meeting held at St. John Fisher

Chairing her first VPC meeting, Denise Donaldson welcomed everyone at 7:05 PM. She said she had big shoes to fill with the loss of Jack Cashman. Alejandra Barnes led the opening prayer. Kit Wojcik read prayers from Jack's funeral service.

Introduction

Denise explained an icebreaker activity to help Council members get to know each other better. Everyone was paired with one other person and had a few minutes to discover something about them that is not commonly known and something on their "bucket list." Each person then introduced their partner with this information.

Focus Items for Discussion

VPC Meeting Dates— Since Fr. Stan has Mass on Monday nights, VPC meetings will move to Tuesday. Many parish councils and commissions also meet on Tuesdays, but it appears that the first Tuesday of the month is clear. Beginning in January, meetings will move to St. Mary of the Hills parish.

Changes in the Archdiocese of Detroit – Cathy Wagner distributed handouts from a presentation given to the new Presbyteral/Vicars Council. She explained how the AOD will be divided into four regions, each presided over by a Bishop or Episcopal Vicar and containing four vicariates. Since there are currently 18 vicariates, four will need to be combined into two in order to reach 16 total. The question yet to be decided is whether to use a corridor or block model for the regions. The corridor model facilitates resource sharing between urban, suburban and rural parishes and honors the current structure. The block model would make Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck into one region and fill the other three regions in a geographically efficient manner. Archbishop Vigneron will make the decision, probably before the next Presbyteral Council meeting in December. The makeup of the Pontiac Area Vicariate will not be affected under either model.

The AOD Central Office has completed their personnel realignment and organizational restructuring. The four regions will each be assigned one person from Parish Life. Next up is staffing and organizing the new Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. This group will be tasked with developing a 10-year strategic plan for the AOD. There will be one representative per vicariate. There is an application process under development that will be used to select APC members. Key on the list of requirements is experience with strategic planning and development of goals and objectives.

Cathy explained that Archbishop Vigneron's priorities are 1) City of Detroit, 2) Catholic Schools, and 3) Strengthening the priesthood. He intends to develop a plan for the city that will consider how many buildings and locations are needed, the financial health of parishes, and sharing resources between the rich and the poor.

The restructuring at the AOD has been painful, resulting in layoffs and early retirements. Going forward, many areas will no longer be funded by the AOD including hospital and jail chaplaincies, immigration and refugee offices, and some pastoral care services. St. Vincent de Paul, Oakland and Macomb County Catholic Social Services, the Oakland County Sheriff's office will assume responsibility for various programs. Cathy said outside grant money might be available now since

organizations are no longer run by the Archdiocese. In other areas, youth and young adult ministry lost six positions, and funding for the Michigan Catholic and the local TV crew was eliminated.

Action Items:

AOD Patron Saint – Denise asked for suggestions for the AOD-sponsored Patron Saint of Detroit selection. Council members offered the following:

- Jerry Dwyasuk (from St. Joseph Parish) suggested St. Joseph the Worker to honor the history of labor in our area.
- Art Seidler suggested St. Francis of Assisi for his example of helping the poor.
- Mark Joyce suggested St. Maximilian Kolbe since he is a modern saint who embraced diversity through his work in the Far East and concentration camps.

Each of the men will fill out the short application form and submit it to the AOD before the December 8 deadline.

Reports/Updates

Vicar's Report – Fr. Stan said he was happy to take on the role of PAV vicar, having served as vicar in the past of the SERF and North Central vicariates. He said that the PAV is recognized as the most active vicariate in the Archdiocese and understands that this is a result of the hard work of many people. He praised the work that Fr. Jerry did over the past seven years and appreciates the organization that he built up. Fr. Stan shared everyone's grief at the loss of Jack Cashman; he had been looking forward to working with Jack, having known him at St. Mary's for many years.

He reported briefly on the Presbyteral Council meeting he attended in October. The Council dealt primarily with internal organization and committee selection. The role of the APC will be key in the forward planning of the AOD.

Fall Assembly follow-up – Agreement all around on the success of the Fall Assembly. The "Called and Gifted" presentation was inspiring and left several Council members wanting the full workshop. At least two parishes purchased materials that they plan to use with their key lay volunteers. Jerry and Greg both suggested that purchasing materials and/or funding additional training would be a good use of PAV resources. Sherry Weddell's message of discerning charisms should encourage everyone to step outside their comfort zone. Encouraging and mentoring new volunteers will be critical going forward. Alejandra said St. Damien parish is currently working to reach out to parishioners and get more people engaged with parish work.

Spring Assembly – Denise reported that the Spring Assembly committee met once and started planning the event. The North Macomb Vicariate is also participating and the expectation is to open attendance to any parishioner, not just leadership. The committee has begun work on publicity and other details. They will meet again at St. Paul's on December 7 at 9:00 AM.

Pastoral Care - Deacon Alex Jablonowski has resigned his post. It is not clear if he is still assigned as a deacon to the PAV. Fr. Stan will contact Fr. Jerry for more information.

Service Operations Committee – Jerry said that Dale Youngpeter held a meeting for this committee. Everyone praised the great work Dale has done in organizing and gathering information. The committee will report at the January VPC meeting.

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council – Art thanked the VPC for their support over the years he has been our rep. He and Kit will attend the final APC meeting on December 15. The application for membership on the new APC will be available online at aodonline.org.

Pastoral Ministers' Association – Bonnie reported that the last PMA meeting featured a presentation on ACTS: A Call To Serve, the PAV-sponsored lay volunteer minister training program.

Open Forum/Communications

- Judy said PAV Newsletter will be in parishes December 5/6. She asked Council members to make arrangements for insertion into bulletins.
- Fr. Stan has reviewed the financial reports of PAV parishes. While most have experienced declines in offertory collections, two have actually seen an increase and those that are down have had only modest declines.
- Fr. Stan is promoting an expanded marriage ministry. This initiative includes other faiths and denominations and will offer support for marriage preparation and second marriages with children and help for troubled marriages. Pastors and Knights of Columbus Councils have received information on how they can become involved.
- There will be a Martin Luther King Day celebration on January 17 at 3:30 PM at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Rochester.
- St. Mary of the Hills will have a Mass for the Unemployed and Underemployed on December 14 at 7:00 PM. Networking and refreshments will follow.
- St. Andrew will have a Lady of Guadalupe Mass on December 12 at 11:00 AM.
- Jerry distributed brochures on the Solanus Casey center in Detroit. He encourages everyone to visit or consider the center for trips or retreats.

The meeting ended at 8:50 PM.

Upcoming VPC Meetings

VPC Meetings: January 5, 2010 at St. Mary of the Hills, 7:00 PM
 February 2, March 2, May 4
 Spring Assembly - March 11, 2010 at St. Paul Albanian

Attendance

Cathy Wagner	Archdiocese of Detroit
Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer
Bonnie Banaszek	Pastoral Ministers' Association
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart of the Hills
John Schmidt	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Dianne Bubnar	St. Andrew
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew
Gregg Peterson	St. Benedict
Cathy Settle	St. Benedict
Alejandra Barnes	St. Damien
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus
Denise Donaldson	St. Joseph
Jerry Dywasuk	St. Joseph
Mary Margaret Brosch	St. Mary of the Hills
Mark Joyce	St. Mary of the Hills
Fr. Stan Ulman	St. Mary of the Hills
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian