



Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes
March 2, 2010
Meeting held at St. Mary of the Hills

The meeting began at 7:08 PM with an opening prayer led by Art Seidler. VPC Chair Denise Donaldson welcomed everyone and led introductions around the room.

Guest Presentations

Becky Lund, Executive Director of Sanctuary at Bellbrook, thanked the Council for allowing her to tell them about the Bellbrook campus and Sanctuary philosophy. The facility, located at Avon and Livernois in Rochester Hills, offers living arrangements that include 48 condos (deed-restricted 55 and older), independent and assisted-living apartments, two memory care units and full nursing and rehabilitation rooms. Mass is offered twice per week and is attended by both residents, 65% of whom are Catholic, and community members.

Sanctuary is a not-for-profit, faith-based organization that honors the choices of residents in such things as rising time, meal time and selection, and other lifestyle preferences. Programs offered included an interfaith healing service in May and speakers and lectures throughout the year. Becky invited Council members to visit Bellbrook for a tour. They also welcome volunteers in many capacities, including teens and youth groups.

The second guest at the meeting was Kathleen Metz, Chair of the St. Andrew's Vocations Committee. She is planning a Mass for vocations and vocation fair that will take place May 18, 2010 at 7:30 PM at St. Andrew. She has invited all of the PAV parish vocation ministries to participate and help promote this event. The Mass will focus on vocations and consecrated life and include seminarians, deacons, and members of religious communities witnessing about their calling. There will be a social gathering with refreshments following the Mass. Kathy asked Council members to promote this event in their bulletins. She would also like contacts at parishes that do not currently have a vocation chairperson. Materials for bulletins and other publicity will be sent in the coming weeks.

Kathy presented a bust of St. Damien of Molokai to Alejandra Barnes, VPC rep from St. Damien parish. The bust had belonged to a family member of Kathy's who was a member of the congregation founded by St. Damien. Alejandra accepted with pleasure and will give the sculpture to her parish.

Finance Review

Paul Borucki, PAV Business Manager, distributed the proposed parish subsidy spreadsheet for 2010-2011. Many of the areas have been reduced from the current year. Paul said that the largest item, the Crittenton Hospital chaplain, has not been negotiated. The allocation for the Crittenton chaplain has changed over the years, but most recently has been shared between the Archdiocese, PAV, and Beaumont Hospital. Going forward, the AOD will no longer provide any money for this chaplaincy. Krista Bajoka and Msgr. Robert McClory are meeting with Crittenton personnel to see if they will absorb half the cost of the chaplain, as Beaumont does. Should this occur, the PAV portion could be reduced or eliminated.

The VPC discussed what options exist if Crittenton will not cover at least the portion previously paid by the AOD, approximately \$15,000. Everyone understands the strain that would be put on PAV priests, especially ones in the Rochester area parishes, if Crittenton loses its Catholic chaplain. Some Council members said that the current subsidy is already burdensome to their parish and did not feel a large increase could be added. Paul will meet with Krista on Friday, March 5, and hopefully get an update on the situation.

Another area discussed was the Oakland County Jail Ministry. Like the hospital chaplain, this is an effort that has been funded by the AOD that is now cut off. PAV has not provided any funds to jail ministry from member parish subsidy monies. Sr. Peggy Devaney has raised money that is managed by PAV, but all past expenditures have been pass-through only. Cathy Wagner said she met with someone from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) and Sr. Peggy to see if they would pay some of all of the expenses for the jail ministry. The OCSD has paid the rent for the jail outreach office at St. Damien's, but it is unclear if they will continue to do this.

Cathy said all jail ministry responsibility has been transferred to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, an organization independent of the Archdiocese of Detroit. She said that St. Vincent already receives donations designated for jail-related items. The AOD will continue to provide deacons and volunteers as well as organize the holiday Giving Tree program, but direct funding will need to come from somewhere else. Cathy said that the St. Vincent de Paul organization is free to apply for grants and government funding that the AOD is not eligible to receive.

St. Damien parish has indicated that the jail ministry office is welcome to stay at their St. Vincent campus location in Pontiac. Cathy said it might be possible for CCRT to assume control of the jail ministry since they deal with many of the same clients. The Council discussed what PAV could do to help with jail ministry. Since PAV has not funded this in the past, any money would be a new category. No consensus was reached.

Other items on the parish subsidy spreadsheet that were discussed:

- Several members questioned the amount budgeted for ACTS/Lay Ministry. Paul said that PAV has had a contract with Parish Services to develop the ACTS materials and put on two or three training sessions each year. It was unclear what the cost would be for one versus two ACTS sessions. Paul said he would contact Nancy Mason Bordley for clarification and email his findings to VPC members.
- Notre Dame School subsidy amounts were agreed upon between the PAV priests many years ago. The amount decreases by 10% a year. Many math-savvy VPC members pointed out this will technically never go away. Paul said that the PAV pastors will have to reach a new agreement with Fr. Leon before the amounts can be changed.
- Several columns on the subsidy spreadsheet deal with the Vision 2000 campaign. Phase I of the campaign did not raise enough money. In addition, some money pledged has been written off as "dead pledges." By prior agreements, these unpaid or unraised amounts have been allocated to parishes as indicated on the PAV budget spreadsheet. Phase II of the Vision campaign is handled separately and is not reflected on the PAV budget under discussion.

The uncertainty surrounding Crittenton, ACTS, jail ministry, etc., coupled with the challenges all parishes face with declining offertory and a coming increase in the AOD assessment, makes the current budget process difficult. That being said, Council members are asked to bring the subsidy sheet to their pastors and parish councils for approval. Paul would like to know by March 31 if each parish accepts the proposed budget. St. John Fisher, St. Irenaeus, and St. Damien have already accepted. St. Joseph, Christ the Redeemer, St. Andrew, and St. Mary of the Hills will review at their next parish council meetings.

Ideas for Next Year

The council spent a few minutes brainstorming ideas for next year. Some suggestions are:

- Have one PAV assembly instead of two. Prefer assembly in the fall.
- Repeat the Hispanic gathering or hold a similar, perhaps multi-cultural, event. Alejandra Barnes said that while the event held last September was very nice, it did not address any serious issues of the Hispanic community. She suggested that a more strategic approach could be taken to help with the integration of the Hispanic community into PAV. Many parishes already have Hispanic groups of their

own. Several Council members said that the gathering was designed to make attendees feel comfortable and welcome in PAV parishes. Anything that is done in the future will need a committee to develop it.

The Executive Committee will discuss these ideas at their next meeting.

Reports/Updates

Vicar’s Report – Fr. Stan said pastors will be receiving a survey from the AOD on finance information gathering. This mailing will also include official notice that the assessment on offertory collections paid by parishes to the AOD will be increasing from 6 to 7 percent.

Service Operations Report – Dale Youngpeter announced that the next ACTS training session will be on Saturday, April 17 at St. Irenaeus. Details are on the PAV website at www.pontiacarevicariate.org.

Spring Assembly on March 11 at St. Paul Albanian – Denise reported that the planning committee has everything under control. Judy said 240 registrations have already been received, far ahead of any past assembly. Dila said that the St. Paul’s Knights of Columbus members will be on hand to assist that evening along with some teens from their parish.

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council – Cathy Wagner said 42 applications have been received for positions on the APC. They represent a full range of age, gender, and geography. Applications are currently being reviewed and 27 people will be selected, at least one from each of the 16 vicariates. The first priority of the new APC will be to develop an Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan. The main goals of this plan will address Catholic schools, the city of Detroit, and care of the priesthood.

Open Forum/Communications

- Mark Joyce asked for contacts at all parishes that have career ministries. A multi-parish executive board is being formed for career groups.

The meeting ended at 9:10 PM.

Upcoming VPC Meetings

Spring Assembly - March 11, 2010 at St. Paul Albanian
6 PM (dinner), 7 PM (presentation)
VPC Meetings: May 4, 2010 at St. Mary of the Hills, 7:00 PM

Attendance

Cathy Wagner	Archdiocese of Detroit
Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer
Dale Youngpeter	Christ the Redeemer
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Paul Borucki	PAV Business Manager
Bonnie Banaszek	PMA Representative
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Dianne Bubnar	St. Andrew
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew
Cathy Settle	St. Benedict
Alejandra Barnes	St. Damien
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus
Denise Donaldson	St. Joseph
Mary Margaret Brosch	St. Mary of the Hills
Mark Joyce	St. Mary of the Hills
Fr. Stan Ulman	Vicar

Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian
Mary Andrews	Sanctuary at Bellbrook
Becky Lund	Sanctuary at Bellbrook
Kathy Metz	St. Andrew Vocation Committee