



Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes

August 10, 2010

Meeting held at St. Mary of the Hills

The meeting began at 7:05 PM with an opening prayer led by Jan Lumetta. Fr. Stan welcomed everyone to St. Mary of the Hills and to the new Vicariate Pastoral Council year. He said St. Mary's will be the host facility for most of the major PAV activities this year including all VPC meetings, the November 7 Diversity Fair, and the Spring Assembly. Fr. Stan said he was excited to be starting his first full year as vicar. He sees Council members as a critical link between the Pontiac Area Vicariate and parishes and vital to the success of the PAV's ongoing and new initiatives.

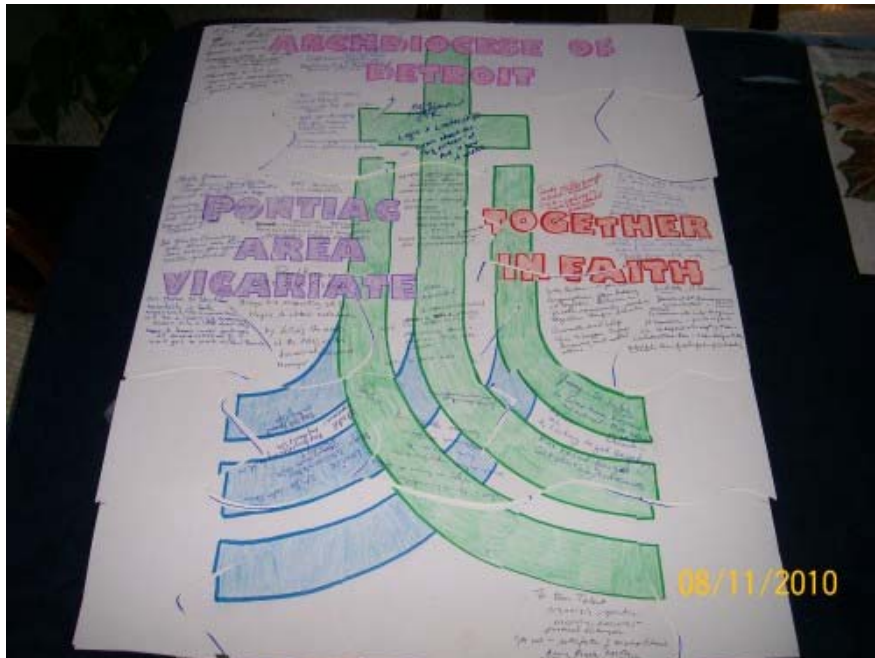
VPC Chair Denise Donaldson introduced herself and said this was her third year on the Council. She said it took her some time to get comfortable with everything that goes on. She said that even if it seems overwhelming at first, new members should keep coming to meetings and things will become clear.

Denise gave an overview of the PAV organization, stating that the Archdiocese of Detroit was recently reorganized into four regions, each with four vicariates. The Pontiac Area Vicariate is part of the Northwest Region. She detailed the PAV mission and vision statements and how the VPC works to implement both of these. The makeup of the Vicariate Pastoral Council – representatives from each PAV parish, the vicar, representative from the Pastoral Ministers' Association, the AOD Department of Parish Life, the PAV business manager, and PAV administrative assistant – and the goals of the VPC were also highlighted.

Denise said that in addition to serving the parishes, schools, and other organizations that make up the PAV, membership on the Council also affords opportunities for personal growth and enrichment. Fun, satisfaction, and collegiality are the icing on the cake. Denise asked that all Council members commit to attending meetings and actively participating in the work of the VPC. A key duty is to provide updates to their parish council on what is happening at the vicariate level. All of the nuts and bolts of the VPC can be found in the Operational Guidelines document that each Council member received.

Ice Breaker Activity

Denise passed out puzzle pieces and assigned everyone a partner. She instructed that the next few minutes be spent getting to know each other, and obtaining answers to the questions: "What talent do you have to offer?" and "What do you hope to get from your service to the VPC?" Each person then introduced their partner to the entire group, sharing the answers to the questions, and everyone put their puzzle piece on a marked poster board. The moral of the story is: We are all important pieces in the whole PAV!



PAV Pastoral Plan / Together In Faith

Steve Lawless, past VPC Chair and current Archdiocesan Pastoral Council rep, presented a brief overview of the PAV Pastoral Plan and Together in Faith activity. This strategic five-year planning process for parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit has resulted in the development of specific goals in each of three Focus Areas. During his time on the VPC, Steve developed and maintained a tracking system that the PAV uses to work toward these goals. For the 2010-11 Council year, the goals being pursued are:

Sacramental Focus Area

- Goal #2. There is a need to respond to the growing needs of the Hispanic Community.
- Goal #4. The vicariate plans to develop a vicariate-wide approach to pastoral care in light of declining availability of ordained ministers and to develop better communications among parishes.

Strategic Focus Area

- Goal #1. Initiate dialog regarding the needs within the Vicariate and provide education, information and communication.
- Goal #2. The vicariate will identify and coordinate Christian Service activities, particularly with the Catholic Community Response Team.
- Goal #3. 6. Every parish and school will coordinate youth ministry.

Sustainable Focus Area

- Goal #2. Vicariate-wide coordination of lay and ordained programs, education and certification of lay leadership, and a study of the role of deacons will address the vicariate's needs for pastoral care.
- Goal #3. The Vicariate will emphasize support of Catholic Education, studying specifically the Marist Academy on St. Benedict's campus

The full spreadsheet of goals and objectives is available online at www.pontiacarevicariate.org/vpc/vpchome.htm.

Steve is currently serving on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. This purpose of this group was redefined when Archbishop Vigneron assumed leadership of the AOD. The APC is in the midst of developing a long-term plan for the entire Archdiocese of Detroit. When this is complete, the vicariates will likely have to revise their pastoral plans to incorporate the goals set by the AOD.

2010-11 VPC Goals and Objectives

Denise explained that much of the work of the VPC takes place in ad hoc and standing committees. Every VPC member has been assigned to a committee, which can be changed at the Council member's request. She led a discussion of the following committees that are staffed for this year:

- Hispanic ad hoc committee
- Pastoral Care ad hoc committee
- Youth Ministry ad hoc committee
- Initiative to Strengthen Marriages ad hoc committee
- Spring 2011 Assembly ad hoc committee
- Services Operations standing committee
- Executive Committee
- Finance standing committee

The full list of VPC committees is available at: <http://www.pontiacarevicariate.org/vpc/vpcdocs.htm>

Those present that are continuing on committees from last year gave an update on what has been achieved and what is currently being worked on. The Hispanic committee is planning a Diversity Fair on November 7 at St. Mary of the Hills. Steve is a member of this committee and said they are seeking speakers, booth operators, and performers to make this event a success. He asked VPC members to help recruit participants from their parishes.

The Pastoral Care of the Sick project has been a major focus of the VPC for several years. This year, it is reinvigorated with the leadership of professional ministers Mary Martin and Kathy Hasty from St. Joseph parish. The VPC committee is primarily tasked with information gathering. For example, identifying the point person at each parish for communal or individual anointing schedules, stressing the importance of a PAV-wide schedule of anointing opportunities, making sure parish councils and ministers understand the Pastoral Care implementation. Mary and Kathy are planning a Pastoral Care Day of Reflection for Saturday, October 30. More information will be forthcoming on this.

Important Note: VPC Members are asked to provide by the next VPC Meeting (September 7th) the single point contact for their Parish's Pastoral Care Ministry.

The Initiative to Strengthen Marriage ad hoc committee is new this year. The ad hoc committee will gather information from around the PAV on workshops, support groups, and other programs that currently exist at our parishes. The other committees will function as they have in the past.

VPC Administration

Judy Gordon explained a few details of how the VPC functions. Most information on meetings, hosting assignments, communication, etc. is explained in the folders that were distributed. Judy urged anyone with a question or concern to contact her at admin@pontiacarevicariate.org or 248.652.0954.

The next PAV quarterly newsletter will be delivered to parishes the weekend of September 11/12. Council members are asked to make arrangements for the insertion of these newsletters inside their parish bulletins.

Vicar's Report

Fr. Stan thanked everyone again for their willingness to serve on the VPC. He said that the Archdiocese is currently planning a capital campaign that is intended to help parishes become financially sound and able to fund their long-term goals. He would like all of the PAV parishes that are part of Holy Family Regional School to participate in the first phase of this campaign and include the needs of the school in their planning. Fr. Stan reminded everyone that all we do starts and ends with prayer.

Jan Lumetta led a closing prayer. The meeting ended at 9:00 PM.

Upcoming VPC Meetings

September 7, 2010, VPC meeting, 7:00 PM at St. Mary of the Hills

Future VPC Meetings: October 5, 2010, November 2, 2010

PAV Diversity Fair, Sunday November 7, 2010, 2:30 PM

Attendance

Steve Lawless	APC Representative
Michael McCallion	Archdiocese of Detroit
Dale Youngpeter	Christ the Redeemer
Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer
Charlie DeBoever	Regional Young Adult Coordinator
Sandy Favrow	Pastoral Ministers' Association
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Paul Borucki	PAV Business Manager
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Dianne Bubnar	St. Andrew
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew
Sue Camilleri	St. Benedict
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus
Ron Valade	St. Irenaeus
Ann Moran	St. John Fisher
Dawy Gonzalez-Ruiz	St. John Fisher
Denise Donaldson	St. Joseph
Jerry Dywasuk	St. Joseph
Fr. Stan Ulman	St. Mary of the Hills
Mary Margaret Brosch	St. Mary of the Hills
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian