



Catholic Parishes,
Schools, Agencies and
Institutions

Parishes

[Christ the Redeemer](#), Orion Twp
[St. Damien of Molokai](#):
[Sacred Heart](#), Auburn Hills
[St. Andrew](#), Rochester
[St. Benedict](#), Waterford
[St. Irenaeus](#), Rochester Hills
[St. John Fisher](#), Auburn Hills
[St. Joseph](#), Lake Orion
[St. Mary of the Hills](#), Roch Hills
[St. Paul Albanian](#), Roch Hills

Schools

[Holy Family Regional School](#),
Rochester/ Rochester Hills
[Notre Dame Preparatory School
and Marist Academy](#)
 Notre Dame Preparatory,
Upper division
 Marist Academy, Pontiac,
Middle division.
 Marist Academy, St. Benedict
Campus, Lower division
[St. Joseph](#), Lake Orion

Religious Communities

[Marist Fathers, USA Province](#)
[Dominican Sisters of Peace](#)
[St. Benedict Monastery](#)

Chaplaincies

[Crittenton Hospital](#)
[Oakland County Jail](#)
[Oakland County Juveniles](#)
[POH Regional Medical Ctr](#)
[St. Joseph Mercy Oakland](#)

Nursing Homes

[Sanctuary at Bellbrook](#)
[Lourdes Senior Community](#)

Oakland County

[Campus Ministry](#)
[Catholic Community
Response Team](#)
[Catholic Social Services of
Oakland County](#)
[Agape Community](#)
[Genesis Young Adults](#)
[Guest House](#)
[St. Mary's Retreat House](#)

Vicariate Pastoral Council – www.pontiacareavicariate.org

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Denise Donaldson, Chair; Jan Lumetta, Vice-Chair, Art Seidler, VPC Representative, Steve Lawless, APC Representative; Sandy Favrow, Pastoral Ministers' Association Representative; Rev. Stan Ulman, Vicar; Michael McCallion, Archdiocese of Detroit Department of Parish Life and Services Liaison

**Together in Faith Phase II
Pastoral Planning Reflection Process
Tuesday, May 3, 2011**

Meeting held at Holy Family Regional School South Campus

Session Three – Internal Catholic Data Review Questions 4-8

The following pages summarize the feedback given from ten parishes to Internal Data questions four through eight.

The meeting was facilitated by Michael Harning and recorded by Judy Gordon.

Attendance

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>Name</u>
Archdiocesan Pastoral Council / St. Joseph	Steve Lawless	St. Irenaeus	Jerome Kondalski
Archdiocese of Detroit	Michael Harning	St. Irenaeus	Dahlvin Peterson
Christ the Redeemer	Jan Lumetta	St. Irenaeus	Art Seidler
Christ the Redeemer	Jake Singer	St. Irenaeus	Ron Valade
Holy Family School	Richard Danforth	St. John Fisher	Scott Kehrer
PAV Admin Asst.	Judy Gordon	St. John Fisher	Ann Moran
Sacred Heart	Janet Dinsmoore	St. John Fisher	Denice Murphy
Sacred Heart	JoAnn Eaton	St. Joseph	Denise Donaldson
Sacred Heart	Ursulene McCaffrey	St. Joseph	John Calkins
St. Andrew	Dianne Bubnar	St. Joseph	Mary Martin
St. Andrew	Paul Kesman	St. Joseph	Randy LaMothe
St. Andrew	Kit Wojcik	St. Mary of the Hills	John Hundiak
St. Benedict	Bonnie Banaszek	St. Mary of the Hills	Robert Jackson
St. Benedict	Joe Salvador	St. Mary of the Hills	Christine McGowan
St. Benedict	Mary Sheipline	St. Mary of the Hills	Fr. Stan Ulman
St. Benedict	Bruce Sheipline	St. Mary of the Hills	Mark Joyce
St. Damien	Morris Magnan	St. Mary of the Hills	Mary Margaret Brosch
St. Irenaeus	John-Paul Belanger		
St. Irenaeus	Leigh Ann Grubbs		

Call to Order

Michael Harning called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM with an opening prayer. Discussion followed on how best to conduct the evening in light of feedback Mike had received after the last session. Many felt that since parishes had already discussed the data and corresponding questions, it was not a good use of time to do so again during this meeting. The most value is obtained listening to other parishes and general discussion on shared problems and ideas. The group decided to have open discussion on the remaining internal data questions and send written parish responses to Judy for inclusion with the minutes.

Mike addressed other questions and concerns regarding the goals of the entire Together in Faith Phase II process. He encouraged parish representatives to revisit the basic assumptions and Archbishop Vigneron's letter. To those who asked, "What is the final goal?" he replied that there is no specific final goal, rather a path of inquiry to better understand where we are and what resources are available. He stressed that TIF is not about what parishes to close or cluster. He cautioned that just being large or financially secure does not insulate a parish from the realities of a declining priest population.

Mike said that the Pontiac Area Vicariate is uniquely positioned to work together to solve common problems. There is precedent for this in the development of the Catholic Community Response Team to address Christian Service needs, the Vision 2000 vicariate-wide bond that funded schools, and the pastoral care of the sick initiative. Long standing PAV collaborations such as the 5:00 PM Sunday area Mass and the Crittenton chaplain arrangement have helped our parishes develop a level of familiarity that is missing in most other areas of the Archdiocese. A question was raised on how PAV parishes can share other things (maintenance, programming) to save money. While this is not a primary goal of TIF, the financial data will give insight on how other parishes conduct their operations.

The next meeting will take place on June 7 at 7 PM at Holy Family School. The first part will address questions 9 and 10 that deal with parish financial data. The rest of the June meeting will deal with starting the PAV Together in Faith plan that is the outcome of this process.

Following are notes and comments from the questions discussed during the remainder of the meeting.

Internal Catholic Data Review Questions

Question 4: What percentage of parishioners lives outside of their parish boundaries and why? Compared to other parishes in the planning group and vicariate? What does this mean for ministerial activities other than weekly Mass?

- General comments on the fact that all parishes have members from outside their boundaries and many inside their boundaries who belong elsewhere. Numbers seem to balance out across the PAV.
- It's good that people are going to Mass, no matter where they attend.
- There are many reasons why people do not attend/belong to their assigned parish. Programs available, Mass times, priest preference, family considerations all play a factor.
- One unaddressed problem is all the former Catholics who do not attend Mass anywhere. We should increase evangelization and "Come Back To Church" programs as other dioceses have done via TV, billboards, etc.
- Good at RCIA and welcoming new Catholics. Need that effort at retaining "cradle" Catholics via adult education.
- Need better marketing – the congregation that meets in school across the street from Christ the Redeemer parish has banners and welcome signs.
- Bias within Catholic Church against changing to meet needs of members. "We are who we are."
- Danger of changing too much. Fine line between offering new programs (i.e. Bible study) that new members seek vs. losing identity.
- (St. Mary of the Hills) Have not seen overall percentage change in 7 years, although actual members come and go. Of original 500 families only 200 are still in parish.
- (St. John Fisher) Consider five mile perimeter for in-parish rather than AOD boundaries.
- (St. Damien) Many who attend seek Spanish Masses and Hispanic community. Recent Cinco de Mayo very popular

Question 5: What Catholic properties are for sale or lease in your planning group and vicariate? Could they be used in a different way? What do you know about the condition of the buildings that are still in use in your planning groups and vicariate? Could they be used in a different way?

This question was not discussed as no relevant data was available.

Question 6: Compare the total seating capacity for the planning group, and the number of registered households in 2010, by parish and by vicariate. What are the implications, in light of increasing or decreasing population, and available housing in the area?

- Several parishes take regular Mass head counts. This helps them for seasonal adjustment and will be useful if Mass times need to be coordinated due to priest availability.
- All parishes report sufficient capacity in their churches for attendance.
- Can St. Joseph and St. Andrew absorb increase should it occur? Not a problem now due to declining population. Study of several years ago for new parish could be revisited if/when need arises.
- (Christ the Redeemer) Usually have 1500 total attendance at three weekend Masses. Total capacity is well in excess of attendance.
- (St. Irenaeus) Mass schedule and capacity are in sync.
- (St. Mary of the Hills) Estimate that 30-35% of parishioners attend weekly. Uses regular Mass counts to manage practical details (how many Eucharist ministers are needed).

Question 7: Review the Mass schedules of the parishes - what are the implications in light of the population trends and seating capacity? In light of the age of priests assigned to your planning group and vicariate?

- Coordination of Mass times has been attempted in the past to ensure that if a priest was unavailable at one church, arriving parishioners could attend Mass at a neighboring parish.
- Do all Sunday Masses have to be in the morning? Is there enough demand for an afternoon Mass? The Rochester area has had a 5PM Sunday Mass, with duties shared by area priests, for many years that is popular.
- All parishes report that their current schedule meets the needs of the parish.
- Projection by AOD predicts 100 fewer priests in Archdiocese in ten year. If this comes to pass, Mass times will need to be adjusted.
- Varied Mass times are good for families that have activities on Sunday morning. This is reality now (i.e. sports are scheduled on Sunday) and it may be best to adapt to this.

Question 8: If there is school within the planning group, how do these internal data affect plans for the school(s)? Do the parishes have development or fund raising plans in place to support the school(s)? How do the parishes assist in marketing and recruiting? What kind of Catholic school model works for your planning group and the surrounding areas, as well the families/potential families in the area?

- Not discussed in detail since school group that is meeting separately will report
- All seats in Catholic schools should be filled
- Economy makes tuition payments difficult for many parents

Financial Data Distribution and Instructions

Mike distributed the financial data packets and two supporting documents that provide information on analyzing and understanding the data. He cautioned everyone that the numbers were accurate as of December 31, 2010 and some payments, particularly to the Michigan Catholic Conference, may have been made since then. Before the next Together in Faith meeting, parish representatives should meet with their pastors and other parish leadership to go over the financial packets and address internal data questions 9 and 10. Following this discussion, the group will begin to craft the PAV Together in Faith Phase II plan.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at Holy Family School. VPC Members should arrive at 6 PM for a short meeting and farewell to departing members. TIF only attendees should come at 7 PM.

Response submitted from: ST. BENEDICT

QUESTION 5:

What Catholic properties are for sale or lease in your parish? None

Could they be used in a different way? N/A

What do you know about the condition of the buildings that are still in use in your parish?

Our capital campaign covers our improved entrances to the church (i.e., improved handicap accessibility and elimination of safety concerns), and provides additional gathering space. In addition, our boiler/furnace might need to be replaced in the near future and we have found a cost effective way to do that.

Could they be used in a different way?

No.

QUESTION 6: Compare the total seating capacity for the planning group, and the number of registered households in 2010, by parish. What are the implications, in light of increasing or decreasing population, and available housing in the area?

Our population seems stable and our housing also is stable, although it is changing from owner occupied to rental in some cases. We are prepared to accommodate any changes in population in our area.

QUESTION 7: Review the Mass Schedules of the Parishes – what are the implications in light of the population trends and seating capacity?

Our population seems stable and our housing also is stable, although it is changing from owner occupied to rental in some cases. We are prepared to accommodate any changes in population in our area.

In light of the age of the priests assigned to your planning group?

The average age of our priests is 61 in the Pontiac Vicariate. 2 are of retirement age of 70 so we could use 2 more priests, one Albanian. St. Benedict has been assigned a priest that is younger.

QUESTION 8:

If there is school within the parish, how do these internal data affect plans for the school?

Because we do not know the demographics of the children attending the Marist Academy, we cannot address this question.

Does the parish have development or fundraising plans in place to support the school? N/A

How does the parish assist in marketing and recruiting? N/A

What kind of Catholic school model works for our parish and the surrounding areas, as well the families/potential families in the area?

One that has affordable tuition and/or is supported by the archdiocese. Is it a possibility that all non-school parishes would provide a portion of their revenue to subsidize parishes with Catholic schools to help defray fixed costs?

QUESTION 9:

Review the Loan Deposit Program debt and payables debt. Is the parish able to meet current expenses?

St. Benedict does not have a Loan Deposit Program Debt. Rather, we have a \$302,000 Vicariate Debt from Vision 2000. Our 2009/2010 budget reflected a positive balance of \$4,000.

Are we attempting to pay down any debt?

We are paying down this debt at a rate of \$15,000 - \$16,000 per Year.

What is the debt, in relation to savings, and what are the implications of this?

Our debt is about 1.2 times our savings, i.e, our savings is \$250,000 vs. a debt of \$302,000. Based on the 10 year plan, submitted to the Archdiocese, we expect to pay off the debt in 2018.

Could your parish assist another in paying down debt or outstanding payables?

No.

QUESTION 10:

Compare the total regular income (offertory plus Christmas collection) to the total of all other income for our parish. Is the parish reliant on special income (rental income, diocesan grants, fundraisers) to meet regular expenses?

Yes. We rely on \$36,000 annual rental from the Marist Academy and about \$20,000 from fundraisers to pay for some ongoing expenses. This amounts to about 9% of our total expenses.

About 73% of our income is from Sunday offertory and Christmas, not including Holy Days, Stipends and Offerings, Bequests and Donations, and other collections such as Debt Retirement and Fuel, Interest Income and any other Miscellaneous Income.

In light of expenses, debt, payables and savings, what are the financial implications for our parish?

We are a financially stable parish, with a positive budget balance in 2009/2010.

Response submitted from: ST. DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI

Next questions 4,5,6,7

4.- What percentages of parishioners live outside of their parish boundaries and why? Compared to the other parishes in the planning group and vicariate? What does this mean to ministerial activities other than weekly mass?

Over 60 % of the parishioners live within parish boundaries.

Why? There are no Spanish speaking services in the areas where they live; they look for emotional connection and that's why they come here. They want to continue with their Latin culture.

Compared with other parishes, people go to their parishes because of their personality and the church personality.

Ministerial activities: Is constant, people need all services, not only they come for mass, they look for catechism and ministries.

5.- what Catholic properties are for sale or lease in your planning group and vicariate? Could they be used in a different way? What do you know about the condition of the buildings that are still in use in your planning groups and vicariate? Could they be used in a different way?

None

6.- Compare the total seat capacity to the planning group, and the number of registered households in 2010, by parish and by vicariate. What are the implications in light of increasing or decreasing population, and available housing in the area?

It doesn't affect much because many people come from outside. If we would like to centralize our services, we would need a bigger building to be able to hold all the people. Otherwise we would need to have 7 or 9 masses in 1 building if we use what we have.

7.- Review the mass schedules of the parishes- what are the implications in terms of the population trends and seating capacity? In light of the age of priests assigned to your planning group and vicariate?

From the 5 masses we have, we could change the schedule of 4 but not for the biggest one, we couldn't accommodate that amount of people in a different way if there were changes.

Priests are aging

The population changes don't affect negatively the attendance to our church but could complicate the capacity we have -since we have 2 masses at the same time: English and Spanish- if we got more people.

8.- If there is school within the planning group...

N/A

Response submitted from: ST. JOHN FISHER CHAPEL UNIVERSITY PARISH

Internal Catholic Data Review

1. Review the Parish Evaluation Inventory (PEI) from 2004-2005 for each parish. How have the parishes changed over the past five years? Have the original PEI plans describing the sacramental, strategic, and sustainable nature identified by each parish been implemented?

Even though membership at all PAV parishes (registered households) with only a few exceptions seems to be holding steady, religious education program enrollment and sacramental participation seem to be decreasing. This probably speaks to the aging of our catholic community, continuing the trend from the 2004-5 PEI.

2. Which parishes have experienced an increase or decrease in Catholic registered households and what do these trends indicate? How does this compare to general population changes?

Most PAV parishes seem to be stable. St. Joseph and CTR are growing and strategically placed, as well as SJF because of our campus ministry focus. SJF helps meet the needs of area young adults who are largely concentrated in our PAV on the campus of Oakland University. It is notable that our SJF campus ministry data is not reflected in the Kennedy Stats. In 2010 OU's enrollment increased for the 13th straight year. Growth is expected to continue with the addition of the new Medical school. One important observation of our own SJF history is that over the last five years the population has increased only 3.6% while our membership has grown 15%.

3. Do the sacramental trends reflect a pattern similar to what the general population has experienced over the past 15 years? Have the number of baptisms, weddings, confirmations, first communions and funerals in each parish increased or decreased proportionately? What does this mean for the general life of the parishes?

As one would expect with our aging community, overall the big picture in our Vicariate is that the number of sacraments we Catholics tend to celebrate as younger members are down and yet the number of needing sacraments for aging members are increasing. Our own SJF community appears to be stable with increases in youth group participation, confirmation and marriages. It appears we have an increase in funerals, but many of these are for parents of members, not for members themselves. We also believe that in the PAV there is a problem that younger families being less involved with the church and being in a more developed community with not that many houses at a lower starting price allowing younger families.

4. What percentage of parishioners live outside of their parish boundaries and why? Compared to other parishes in the planning group and vicariate? What does this mean for ministerial activities other than weekly Mass?

Most parishes have 40% to 50% percent of the members within their parish boundaries. This fact seems a little misleading. If you use a 5 mile radius from the church for example a much larger percentage of the families live within this tight area around the church. We feel that when you look at this information from this standard, a picture of the church and people living within the local community is formed. This means we need to minister to our local community.

5. What Catholic properties are for sale or lease in your planning group and vicariate? Could they be used in a different way? What do you know about the condition of the buildings that are still in use in your planning groups and vicariate? Could they be used in a different way?

No Financial Data Provided

6. Compare the total seating capacity for the planning group, and the number of registered households in 2010, by parish and by vicariate. What are the implications, in light of increasing or decreasing population, and available housing in the area?

It appears that the southern half of the vicariate has little land available for future development. This will allow for very little growth within this area. On the other hand the Northern Parishes have undeveloped land within their parish boundaries. Once the economy picks up we foresee possible growth to the parishes on the Northern Boundary. This may cause a need for more seating or more masses in those communities.

7. Review the Mass schedules of the parishes – what are the implications in light of the population trends and seating capacity? In light of the age of priests assigned to your planning group and vicariate?

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8. If there is school within the planning group, how do these internal data affect plans for the school(s)? Do the parishes have development or fundraising plans in place to support the school(s)? How do the parishes assist in marketing and recruiting? What kind of Catholic school model works for your planning group and the surrounding areas, as well the families/potential families in the area?

Vision 2000 has prepared us as a Vicariate to meet the needs of Catholic school in our area.

9. Review the Loan Deposit Program debt and payables debt. Are the parishes in the planning group able to meet current expenses? Are they attempting to pay down any debt? What is the debt, in relation to savings, and what are the implications of this? Could your parish assist another in paying down debt or outstanding payables?

No financial data was given for the Vicariate. SJF is in the black, keeping up with our debt obligations, however this is at the sacrifice of some of our own programming. As a community we are living lean.

10. Compare the total regular income (offertory plus Christmas collection) to the total of all other income for each of the parishes in the planning group. Is the parish reliant on special income (rental income, diocesan grants) to meet regular expenses? In light of expenses, debt, payables and savings, what are the financial implications for each parish, for the planning group and the vicariate?

No financial Data given for the vicariate. SJF is not reliant on special income to meet our regular expenses.

Response submitted from: ST. PAUL ALBANIAN

As per Father Anton questions #9 and 10."Since we do not have a loan or a debt on the building, we are handling our expenses without any problems..We can not help other parishes do to the fact that we expect to have some expenses for upgrades of our parking lighting, a new road sign, and an over head projection for the church". And when "the new priest" settles in, we will take it from there with of course new parish council.

Response submitted from: ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

Question Four addresses the percentage of parishioners who live outside of our parish boundaries. For St. Mary, in 2004 47% of our members lived within our parish boundaries; that percentage is 45.9% in 2010, virtually the same percentage. We believe that there is a great deal of fluctuation in the membership of our parish and that the majority of our members live outside of our boundaries and will continue to do so. However, the overall membership of our Parish has remained at about the same level over the years, indicating that our Parish remains attractive to those within and outside of our boundaries.

Question Five addresses what Catholic properties are for sale or lease in the PAV or are for sale or lease by our Parish. St. Mary does not have any property that it leases to anyone; and it does not have any property for sale. St. Mary would like to acquire certain property adjacent to its physical plant, if possible, and would be interested to learn if it could swap another AOD parcel for a > parcel of land adjacent to St. Mary.

Question Six addresses the seating capacity of our church and the registered households in our parish. Our seating capacity is approximately 1090 and our parish is very seldom full except on special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. The number of registered households has remained relatively stable over the past few years. In short, we have adequate capacity to serve our members.

Question Seven addresses the need for fewer or more masses at St. Mary. This is not an issue currently, but could be an issue if we have fewer priests and thus can support fewer masses. We are fortunate to have reliable and good weekend help from Father Strain and Father Leon. But in the next ten years there will be 100 fewer priests in the AOD, which will require changes.

Question Eight addresses the Catholic schools in the vicinity and the interaction of the parishes with the schools and the support of the parishes for the schools. St. Mary donates about \$275 per student for each child at Holy Family and Notre Dame Prep, but we formerly also donated \$5,000 per month to Holy Family but no longer do so (because we no longer use the Holy Family classrooms for religious education and due to budgetary constraints). We believe that St. Mary should have more involvement with the Catholic schools including Catholic high schools.

Question Nine addresses the debt that each parish has to the AOD. St. Mary does not have any debt to the AOD, except for the Vision 2000 debt of about \$259,000 that is being paid at the rate of about \$25,000 a year.

Question Ten addresses the offertory collections and Christmas collections of the parishes and financial viability of the parishes. St. Mary is blessed because it has been very responsible with its funds and its parishioners have been very generous. We are fortunate to be financially stable at this time. We have a balanced budget and manage each department within the Parish to that budget, and we have saved enough to be in a position to cover the cost of any extraordinary expenses that may arise.