



The **mission** of the Vicariate is to be responsive to the ministry of its parishes, schools, institutions, and agencies by:



Coordinating pastoral planning



Enhancing communications and networking



Promoting collegiality



Identifying and utilizing all resources which can be shared

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# Catholic Social Services of Oakland County: Helping Individuals and Families for Over 60 Years

**C**atholic Social Services of Oakland County (CSSOC) is an agency of the Archdiocese of Detroit. For over 60 years, they have provided professional services and outreach programs that help to protect vulnerable children from abuse and neglect, assist individuals and families that are facing serious life challenges, and offer support and services for those who have responsibility to care for the elderly. Guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, their programs and services are available to all people regardless of personal beliefs, religious practices or race.

CSSOC provides services at nine locations throughout Oakland County. With a mission to promote family stability, support personal growth and protect vulnerable children, the agency offers comprehensive social, educational and support programs including:

- **Foster Care and Adoption** from the office known as St. Francis Family Services.
- **Family Education and Supportive Services** provide a wide range of education programs offered to families who need in-home and/or center-based child development classes (with focus on communication, empathy and child management techniques). Case management and mentoring programs are also offered to families that need ongoing support.
- **Counseling and Substance Abuse Services** are available for individuals, families, couples, and groups. Licensed professionals help adults, elderly, and children.
- **Older Adult Services** include two senior day care centers and caregiver support services.
- **Senior Volunteer Services** including foster grandparents, senior companions, retired and senior volunteer programs.
- **Hispanic Outreach Services** Academic educational classes for adults and children, parenting classes, translation and interpretation, tutoring and mentoring and social services with our Hispanic families. Offered centrally in Pontiac.

**C**SSOC partners with local and national organizations to promote just and equitable public policies. They act as a source of strength for all who are served by their programming. Understandably, such wide-reaching efforts take enormous resources. CSSOC receives partial funding from partners like United Way, Area Agency on Aging 1-B, Corporation for National Service, Oakland County Office for Substance Abuse Services, state and federal contracts, client fees, insurance reimbursement and private donations. While CSSOC is not funded by the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, their programs are intended to supplement parish services within each community and/or provide services where none exist.



*Catholic Social Services President Marge Huggard and Christ the Redeemer parish Christian Service Coordinator Karen Swietlik at the PAV Assembly.*

Catholic Social Services looks to church communities to help fund those programs essential to the health and well-being of individuals and families in each parish and beyond. When you are thinking about how you might become involved, consider whether you or a family member could mentor a Hispanic child in need of encouragement from an adult who cares. Mentors are also needed for children who have an incarcerated parent and they benefit greatly from someone telling them they are “okay.” Often times, volunteers collect hats and gloves for the children in the foster care program. Professional staff know how to help in any crisis situation...so remember this is your Catholic Agency! If you need help – call us. If you can give help - volunteer your time, donate goods, or send a free will donation....everything is deeply appreciated.

At present, CSSOC is planning their Spring Gala, to take place at the Somerset Inn on April 26, 2008. The gala theme is “Spring Break” and all attendees are sure to enjoy the fine dining, lively entertainment and auction items available to bid on the evening of the event. Community members can help CSSOC by buying a ticket to the gala, donating auction items, purchasing advertising space in the gala booklet and promoting the event to family and friends.

For more information on the gala, to make a donation, or to volunteer contact Lisa Sowa, Director of Marketing & Development at 248.333.3700 ext. 3304. Any time throughout the year, when questions arise, please remember that you can call Catholic Social Services of Oakland County President Marge Huggard at 248.333.3700 ext. 3303. \*

## Members:

### Parishes

- Christ the Redeemer, Orion Township
- Pontiac Catholic Community
  - St. Michael
  - St. Joseph
  - St. Vincent
- Sacred Heart of the Hills, 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, Rochester Hills
- St. Paul Albanian, Rochester Hills

### Schools

- Holy Family Elementary, Rochester/Rochester Hills
- Marist Academy Lower Level St. Benedict Campus, Waterford
- St. Joseph School, Lake Orion
- Marist Academy Middle School, Pontiac
- Notre Dame Preparatory, Pontiac

### Catholic

#### Cemeteries

- Guardian Angels
- Mt. Hope

## Archdiocese Changes Parishes Legal Structure

**A** new initiative in the Archdiocese of Detroit will change the civil legal structure of all parishes from “corporation sole” to separate incorporation as a non-profit corporation. This has been under consideration for many years but came to the forefront as part of the Together In Faith pastoral planning process.

While the idea may sound new to some, it has been in effect in dioceses throughout the United States for many years. According to Church law and theology, each parish and diocese has its own unique set of rights and responsibilities. Creating non-profit parish corporations is the simplest and most effective way of ensuring that the rights of parishes regarding church property are respected not only in church law, but also in civil law.

The Archdiocese has assured parishes that day-to-day life will remain the same. There are no major

changes planned for current practices and protocols. This decision is not made in response to any crisis, nor are there any pending civil or canonical court proceedings that would call into question the status of church property. Parish incorporation simply adopts a civil law model that more fully reflects the nature of the relationship that already exists within the Archdiocese.

With regard to schools in the Archdiocese, under church law a parish school belongs to the parish. There are no plans to incorporate parish schools separately from the parish. There are also no plans to incorporate regional schools, such as Holy Family.

It is the hope of Cardinal Maida that parish incorporation will increase commitment to prudent stewardship of all resources that have been entrusted to us. ✱

## Deacon Alex Jablonowski Joins Vicariate

**T**he Pontiac Area Vicariate has been developing a Pastoral Plan to care for the sick in our Vicariate. Key areas of concern that have been identified from surveys in the past year include: the celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick or Anointing; Viaticum as the Sacrament of the dying; the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and pastoral care to the sick with visits that may or may not include communion.

Every parish is involved in some way in these areas of concern. However, some requests from Catholics in our Vicariate are hard to meet. There is a great need for Pastoral Care services in area hospitals, nursing homes, and extended care facilities.

This is where I come in. My name is Alex Jablonowski, and I am a Permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of Detroit. I have been assigned to work with the Vicar of the Pontiac Vicariate in the implementation of the Pastoral Care Project. My place of celebrating the Liturgies has been assigned to St. John Fisher Chapel. I have been a Deacon in the Archdiocese for 16 years. My previous assignments were with St. Daniel parish in Clarkston and Christ the Redeemer

in Lake Orion. On a personal note, I have been married for 34 years and have two adult children, one of whom was recently married. My mother was recently admitted to an extended care facility so I have a special interest in what happens with this project.

A lot of work has already been done in the PAV prior to my coming aboard and I hope to coordinate all the material generated by the committee. I will be attending most of the Vicariate meetings and I intend to go out to the different parishes of the Vicariate when the need arises to explain the implementation process when it is complete. This is a good project and I know our Lord will be with us to see it to completion. I would like to thank Fr. Jerry Brzezinski for this opportunity and St. John Fisher Chapel for their kindness and hospitality in accepting me and my family.

*God Bless,  
Alex Jablonowski*



## The Many Ministries of the Pontiac Area Vicariate

**T**he Oakland County Jail Chaplaincy and Outreach Center is an interfaith group focused on criminal justice ministry. Every year they serve the human and spiritual needs of some 2000 inmates and their families housed in seven buildings and 25,000 inmates housed in the Oakland County Jail. The Jail Ministry is supported in part through the Catholic Services Appeal. In the jail alone the chaplaincy responds to over 12,000 requests for assistance annually. There are about 60 Catholic volunteers staffing the jail chaplain's office and others are involved as part of over 400 volunteers coming into the jail for worship, study, prayer, distribution of religious materials, responding to individual requests, communicating with families and local clergy of various faith groups.

Here in the Pontiac Area Vicariate this Chaplaincy, through volunteers, is able to serve the spiritual needs of victims, offenders, and families of both. Volunteers in and out of the jail provide emergency food, clothing, transportation, shelter, and finding a home church for inmates being released from jail and prison. Jail volunteers have a variety of roles depending on their giftedness and call. They provide Eucharistic Liturgies, prayer services, bible studies, preparation for RCIA, bibles, rosaries, religious materials, pastoral listening for individuals and groups, support services in the jail office and outreach office, mentoring of new volunteers, efforts related to seasonal

# PAV Leadership Gathers for Fall Assembly

The leadership of the Pontiac Area Vicariate gathered on October 22 at Christ the Redeemer parish to learn about Christian Service activities and organizations in the area. Over 120 pastors, chaplains, school principals, parish staff members, parish council representatives, commission members, school, and agency representatives were in attendance

Keynote speakers were Marge Huggard and Barbara Williams. Huggard, the President of Catholic Social Services of Oakland County, detailed the many programs that CSSOC offers to clients. She shared the agency's growing concern over funding as available money decreases while needs grow. More information on CSSOC is found elsewhere in this issue.

Ms. Williams is the director of the Catholic Community Response Team. Founded in 2004 by the Pontiac Area Vicariate, CCRT seeks to provide assistance with hurdles people face that hinder self-sustainability. In the last three and a half years they have responded to more than 1200 clients, usually providing help with food, clothing and shelter. Common grants are for rent, ID cards, bus fares, utility bills, and the like.

Williams explained that as well as being a bridge to other state and local relief agencies, part of CCRT's mission is



*From Top: Vicariate Pastoral Council Vice-Chair Steve Lawless and CCRT Director Barb Williams; Table discussion following presentation; Sr. Peggy Devaney, Chaplain for the Oakland County Jail Ministry; VPC Chair Lew Elbert, Jan Elbert and CCRT assistant Suzanne Kimmerly*

listening to people who otherwise have no voice. She thanked all the parishes in the PAV who support CCRT through their Vicariate dues and additional tithing or grants. CCRT also receives help from other parishes in the metro Detroit area. They have also obtained grants from the Archdiocese of Detroit. They are always in need of volunteers to help at the office and donations for direct client aid. You can contact the CCRT office at 248-333-3700 ext. 3332 or by email at [crrt@cssoc.org](mailto:crrt@cssoc.org).

Also present at the assembly were representatives from five agencies that provide services to those in our area. These attendees include: Love in The Name of Christ, Lighthouse of Pontiac and Clarkston, Baldwin Center, Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency, and the Oakland County Criminal Justice Ministry. More information on each provider, including services they provide, areas they serve, funding sources and what our Area Church can do to support them is available on the PAV website at [www.pontiacarevicariate.org](http://www.pontiacarevicariate.org) under the "Vicariate Pastoral Council" tab. ✿

## Jail Ministry

*(Continued from page 2)*

projects for the jail and outreach, opportunities for diaconate and Jesuit internships, Manresa Immersion Experiences, and information and referral to resources in the tri-county area.

Often families, agencies, attorneys, churches, and others use the chaplain's office in the jail and/or outreach to be able to discover needed information and communications in order to respond to emergency situations. It is a very lonely place for friends and loved ones when they have someone incarcerated or getting out of prison. The chaplaincy office in or out of the jail is present in times of need...to all. ✿

[www.pontiacarevicariate.org](http://www.pontiacarevicariate.org)

## World AIDS Day

All are welcome for an evening of prayer and solidarity to commemorate World AIDS Day. Hear personal experiences and eyewitness accounts of the unfathomable suffering and courage of the people of Africa who deal with the overwhelming reality of HIV and AIDS. Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 7:30 PM at Visitation North, 7227 Lahser Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI. Call 248-433-0950 or email [visitationnorth@ihmsisters.org](mailto:visitationnorth@ihmsisters.org) to register.

## Members:

### Religious Communities

- Oxford Dominican Sisters
- St. Benedict Monastery

### Chaplaincies

- Crittenton Hospital
- North Oakland Medical Center
- Oakland County Jail
- Oakland County Juveniles
- POH Medical Center
- St. Joseph Mercy Oakland

### Nursing Homes

- Lake Orion
- Mercy Bellbrook
- Oakland County Medical Care Facility
- Lourdes Campus

### Oakland County

- Campus Ministry
- Catholic Community Response Team
- Catholic Social Services
- Genesis Young Adult/Campus Ministry
- Fusion Ministry
- Guest House

