



## Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes August 21, 2006 Meeting held at St. John Fisher

### Introductions

VPC Chair Bill Travnik welcomed everyone and Gwen Kelly opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:00 PM. Those present introduced themselves.

### Minutes

Minutes from the June 12, 2006 VPC meeting were approved.

### Ice Breaker Activity

Jacques Pasquier instructed everyone to select the animal they felt they were most like (fox, lion, opossum or St. Bernard) and go a table for that animal. Each group made a list of five strengths and five weaknesses of their chosen creature. The lists were shared with the entire group, emphasizing that in any gathering all personalities will be present and it is helpful to recognize the strengths and drawbacks that each bring to the group.

### Focus Items

- a. Bill gave an update on the progress of the Guidelines and Operational Procedures ad hoc committee and how they are using the concept of discernment to achieve their objective. He suggested that the VPC also use the elements of trusting, listening, sharing and integrity in their meetings and interactions this year.
- b. Fr. Jerry began with a description of the organizational structure of the Catholic Church, emphasizing the Local Church, i.e. Archdiocese of Detroit and the Area Church, i.e. the Pontiac Area Vicariate. He used a model of concentric circles with the Body of Christ as the inner circle; Local church or dioceses that are led by an "ordinary" as the next ring; Area Church, led by a vicar, as the next ring (18 Vicariates in the AOD); then the parishes, schools, institutions, agencies, etc. that make up the PAV. He then listed all of the PAV members and those present indicated the size of their parishes or schools.

He explained that one advantage of having vicariates is the sharing of resources to accomplish projects that are too big for any one parish or organization. Examples of this are the Catholic Community Response Team, Genesis Ministries, outreach projects, etc. Fr. Jerry distributed a diagram of the PAV and how communication flows among the various groups and committees in the Archdiocese, Vicariate and parishes. The VPC is a key information link between parishes and the PAV.

Finally, Fr. Jerry gave an overview of the work of the Council for the coming year. Five major initiatives are being addressed by ad hoc committees (Hispanic Pastoral Plan, VPC Guidelines and Operational Procedures, New Parish, Emergency Pastor Replacement Plan & Priest Shortage, and PAV Finance Committee) that have already begun their work. Each VPC member has been assigned to one of these working groups. He emphasized that for the VPC "you need to be present to win" – i.e. meeting attendance and involvement is an essential part of serving on the Council.

- c. PAV Parish presentations: At their last meeting, the VPC Executive Committee decided that the parish presentations, originally planned for this meeting, will be spread out over the course of the coming year. Jacques went over the expectations for these 5-10 minute presentations – to give Council members a feel for the life, characteristics, diversity and important issues at each parish. Bill Travnik described how he had emailed a questionnaire to 45 members of St. Mary of the Hills and received very revealing feedback. All parishes have been assigned an upcoming meeting when they will present. Please notify Judy if you change your date.
- d. The next VPC gathering will be the Pontiac Area Vicariate assembly on September 25 at St. John Fisher. This evening is being planned by the VPC ad hoc committee and will present the AOD's Hispanic Pastoral Plan. It is expected that Council members will promote attendance to their parish

councils, commission leaders, school boards, etc. Please read and act on the information you will receive via email in the coming weeks.

## Reports

- a. Vicar's Report  
New Detroit has invited Fr. Jerry to participate in a Leadership Summit on Race October 8-10, 2006. He is unable to attend but would like someone from the Vicariate to attend in his place. If interested, please let him know by August 28.
- b. APC: First meeting on September 19 will focus on communicating to youth and teens.
- c. Genesis Ministries/Campus Ministries: Rakhi attended the National Leadership Forum this summer. She is working on fall programming and will visit all parishes in the Genesis territory. She has also prepared a Genesis Ministry brochure that will be distributed and shared with other vicariates considering young adult programs.
- d. Parish Council Feedback
  - o Grace said St. Benedict will install their parish council members at all masses this weekend. They hope this will help connect the PC to the parishioners. This idea came about from the VPC meetings.
  - o Lew said St. John Fisher uses "Parish Council" nametags to identify members at masses.
  - o Bill said St. Mary's offers listening training to all parish council members.

The meeting concluded at 8:55 PM.

**Next VPC Meeting: Hispanic Pastoral Assembly  
Monday, September 25, 2006 from 6:30-9:00 at St. John Fisher (upstairs).**

**PAV Quarterly Newsletter – next issue in parish bulletins the weekend of September 9/10.  
VPC representatives are responsible for inserting into your parish bulletins.**

## Attendance

Christ the Redeemer	Gwen Kelly
Genesis Ministries	Rakhi Roy
Pastoral Ministers' Association	Jacques Pasquier
PAV Administrative Assistant	Judy Gordon
Pontiac Catholic Community	Renee St. Dennis
Pontiac Catholic Community	Bernard Pacheco
Pontiac Catholic Community	Cecelia Pacheco
Sacred Heart Parish	Janet Dinsmoore
St. Andrew Parish	Dianne Bubnar
St. Benedict Parish	Grace Imbrunone
St. Benedict Parish	Connie Cunningham
St. Irenaeus Parish	Art Seidler
St. John Fisher Parish	Paul Borucki
St. John Fisher Parish	Fr. Jerry Brzezinski
St. John Fisher Parish	Lew Elbert
St. John Fisher Parish	Fabiola Tonna
St. Mary of the Hills Parish	Terry Mike
St. Mary of the Hills Parish	Bill Travnik
St. Paul Albanian	Dila Dusovic