



Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes
March 31, 2008
Meeting held at St. John Fisher

The meeting began at 7:05 PM with a prayer led by Carmen Rodriguez. As those present introduced themselves, they reported where their parish stands with regard to the Called To Serve teen certification program.

St. John Fisher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Estimates 3-5 teens will need certification right away and on an ongoing basis (this includes Boy Scouts) ▪ Preferred time for training is Saturday morning or Sunday evening, Jun 15-30 or Aug 15-30 ▪ Prefer Vicariate-wide training
Sacred Heart of the Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of teens not available at this time ▪ Need to certify teens prior to this summer's vacation bible school ▪ Currently trying to find a counselor who can be available during training. Willing to host at their parish if details can be worked out
Christ the Redeemer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth group director currently identifying who will need certification. Twenty teens work with summer bible school program. ▪ Letters have been sent to 400 families who have teens with information on Called To Serve ▪ Inclined to have classes at parish for convenience of teens ▪ Considering adding Called To Serve to eighth grade religious education curriculum
St. Irenaeus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth Director estimates 70 teens will need certification ▪ After initial sessions at parish, would be happy to send teens from St. Irenaeus to other parishes for training and/or accommodate students from other parishes ▪ Wednesday evenings in the Fall preferred schedule
Pontiac Catholic Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Just getting started on planning for teen training; numbers or details not available ▪ Spanish teen group does not work with younger children
St. Andrew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 12-15 teens who work with children would need certification ▪ 50-60 additional teens work on service projects, some involving seniors ▪ Ongoing certification would drop to 15-20 per year ▪ Variety of times would be best-suggest monthly session somewhere in the PAV ▪ Prefer Vicariate-wide approach with at least one session at St. Andrew
St. Mary of the Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 25 teens need training; 8-10 additional each year ▪ Tuesday or Wednesday nights best time ▪ PAV training preferred for varied scheduling
St. Benedict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 or 2 students need training ▪ Sunday evening best time ▪ Prefer PAV-wide approach

Many VPC members said that the youth and religious education directors at their parishes have questions about who exactly needs to be certified. They are also unclear about how to hold a training session and who should be available to students at the training. Judy will contact Chris Kozlowski with these questions and forward his comments to Council members.

Focus Item

2008-2009 VPC Goals and Objectives: Fr. Jerry gave a brief recap of how the VPC has functioned in the past few years since the [Together In Faith](#) survey and the subsequent development of the [PAV Pastoral Plan](#). Starting with the Sacramental, Strategic, and Sustainable focus areas, short- and long-term goals and objectives are determined each year. The short-term items become the basis for ad hoc committees that are comprised of VPC

members and other lay and professional individuals. These ad hoc committees report to the Council once or twice during the year.

VPC Co-Chair Steve Lawless has set up a tracking system and broken down each objective into specific tasks. From this, a list of proposed ad hoc committees for the 2008-2009 Council year has been developed and was distributed to the group. Fr. Jerry went through this document giving background on those that will be continuing (Pastoral Care, Youth Ministry, Hispanic) and explaining the ones that are new for next year (PAV Services Operations). The Executive Committee and Spring and Fall Assembly planning committees are also included in the document.

All Council members are asked to serve on one of these committees. Many of those present volunteered for one of the ad hoc committees. Renee St. Dennis encouraged everyone to not be afraid to sign up for something even if it seems out of their comfort zone. She related her very positive experience on the VPC Guidelines committee last year.

The Goals and Objectives document will be updated and sent to Council members in advance of the May VPC meeting. It is hoped that all committees will be fully staffed at that time.

Action Items

1. Spring Assembly: The spring PAV assembly will take place on **Tuesday, April 29, 2008** at St. Paul Albanian parish. It will now include the five vicariates under Bishop Flores (Blue Water, North Macomb, Southwest, Thumb, and Pontiac). Flyers and invitations have been emailed out and Council members are asked to promote it to their parish councils and staffs and other parish leaders. Registration is available online at www.pontiacareavicariate.org. Flyers can also be downloaded from the same page.

Lew reported that he and Fr. Jerry met with Dr. Patricia Cooney-Hathaway, the keynote speaker for the assembly, and discussed her presentation. Lew has offered to attend any VPC meetings in the other Vicariates to promote the assembly. The agenda for the event is being worked out and will include information on St. Paul's parish and a welcome from Bishop Flores. Attendees will be seated by function to encourage cross-vicariate interaction. Anyone who is able to come early that evening to help is encouraged to do so.

Reports/ Updates

1. Vicar's Report: There has not been a meeting of the vicars since the last VPC meeting.

Fr. Jerry said he has received permission from Cardinal Maida to continue as PAV vicar for another year. Lew read the Cardinal's letter, which included many compliments about our Vicariate.

Announcements

- ACTS: A Call To Serve – Next scheduled session of this PAV-developed lay volunteer training will be on Saturday, April 12, at St. Andrew parish. Contact Nancy Clancy (248 651 6571, nancyc@standrewchurch.org) for more information.
- Genesis Ministries is part sponsor of a Young Adult Scripture symposium to be held on August 16, 2008 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. Visit www.genesis-ministries.org/scripture-symposium08.htm for details.

The meeting ended at 8:50 PM.

Upcoming VPC Meetings

Regional Vicariate Assembly TUESDAY, April 29, 2008, 6:30 PM at St. Paul Albanian parish

May 19, 2008 – VPC End of year picnic

Council members are asked to bring feedback from their parishes on the assembly to the May meeting.

Attendance

Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer Parish
Bonnie Banaszek	Pastoral Ministers' Association
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Carmen Rodriguez	Pontiac Catholic Community
Frank Rodriguez	Pontiac Catholic Community
Renee` St. Dennis	Pontiac Catholic Community
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart Parish
Dianne Bubnar	St. Andrew Parish
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew Parish
Connie Cunningham	St. Benedict Parish
Cathy Settle	St. Benedict Parish
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus Parish
Jerry Brzezinski	St. John Fisher Parish
Kim Dodd	St. John Fisher Parish
Lew Elbert	St. John Fisher Parish
Brian Milosch	St. Joseph Parish
Terry Mike	St. Mary of the Hills
Jack Cashman	St. Mary of the Hills
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian