

Pontiac Area Vicariate Pastoral Council 2007-8 Year End Report

Together we pray that through our efforts the five talents entrusted to us have delivered an acceptable return to our master.

This progress report of the 2007-8 operational year of the PAV Pastoral Council is a testament to the dedicated service and efforts of the many participating representatives and ministry leaders who, under the coordination and guidance of Vicar Jerry Brzezinski and Chairperson Lew Elbert, have helped make visible the presence of Christ in our Area Church.

The Pontiac Area Vicariate (PAV) Pastoral Council extends a heartfelt thank you to all of the Parishes, Schools, Agencies and Institutions of the Vicariate for their continued support. The funding and representatives that they provide to the Vicariate supports the planning, development, and operation of the programs and services best thought to benefit from a shared Vicariate-wide approach. These programs not only service our constituents but also extend the reach of our ministries beyond our own parishes and organizations and beyond our Vicariate borders in a way that would not be otherwise possible.

The Vicariate activities summarized within this report provide a broad view of the progress in the efforts of the PAV to coordinate the gifts and needs of our Area Church. What this summary cannot do is detail the tremendous value of the donated funds and efforts or the remarkable impact of these efforts on those in need.

Barbara Williams, from the Catholic Community Response Team, provides an example glimpse into the lives behind the numbers.

“A mother with 6 dependents came to CCRT with an eviction judgment from the court. She has two children of her own and is caring for four other family members’ children during a crisis situation. She attends college full time and works part time while caring for her family. She got behind on her rent due to wages lost due to lack of transportation. Her car needed a repair. She was unable to get to work and ended up losing her job. She has since secured a new and better paying job. CCRT was able to help her pay off her car repair thru our grant with the Rochester Women’s Community Grant and, thru various partners such as TEAM Center in Birmingham and local support, her eviction payment was satisfied.”

PAV 2007-8 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2007-8, the Vicariate supported five continuing operations, three projects (one in-process long-range project, two new ministry project initiatives), and a host of administrative and communication activities.

Vicariate Operations:

The five continuing operational ministries supported in 2007-8 were:

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1. A Call To Serve (ACTS) – The need to train lay volunteer ministers throughout the Vicariate was first recognized in the development of the Archdiocese of Detroit (AOD) Together-in-Faith plan (2005-6) for the Vicariate. Since its implementation in 2006, the ACTS training course has had a steady increase in students from ministries inside and outside the Vicariate. In the 2007-8 operating year, 104 lay ministers received training (compared with 36 in 2006-7 and 19 in 2005-6).

2. Youth Ministry – The implementation of the PAV Youth Minister and Program Plan began in 2006-7 with the goal of bringing together the youth ministers of the PAV and unifying them as a team. In 2007-8, youth ministry collaboration and coordination continues within the Vicariate bringing teens (and families of teens) together in shared prayer and worship, service, and community life. Youth ministers across six parishes have been meeting regularly to collaborate on programs. This has resulted in successful events – dances, trips to Cedar Point, and service projects – that attract larger numbers than could be done at any single parish. It is also helpful to the youth ministers who each only have to coordinate one major event, rather than several, each year.

3. Genesis Ministry – PAV continues to support the Oakland County-wide Young Adult Genesis Ministries. Genesis continues to reach out very effectively to single and married young adults between 18-35 years old in the 59 parishes in Oakland County. By collaborating with exciting programs at campus and parish levels, and providing a foundation for future growth to address young adults' spiritual and social needs, Genesis seeks to connect young adults to other young adults and the Catholic Church in the Oakland County area.

4. Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT) - The Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT), founded in 2004 by the Pontiac Area Vicariate, provides direct referral and support services. They work to build a permanent bridge between two populations who live in close proximity, but whose life experiences are worlds apart: those in crisis with urgent, unmet needs and volunteers wanting to live out their faith through the works of charity and justice. In 2007-8, with \$34,000 in support from the AOD and PAV, the CCRT provided coordinated assistance to 534 adults and 142 children to resolve approximately \$136,000.00 worth of critical financial need.

By the numbers:

235	Food Requests	100	Evictions Prevented
51	New Housing - Security Deposit Support	291	Clothing
85	Help with Utility Payments	45	Job Inquiries
193	Household Goods and Furniture	5	Automobile Repair
58	Identification Documents	15	Prescription Expense
24	Eyeglasses (Gift of Sight)		

By the lives: As reported by CCRT Director Barb Williams: *“In terms of real people, gosh so many stories... People laid off from work, single moms in job programs, domestic violence victims, men and women with mental health issues, disabled persons living on \$636 a month (basic payment) trying to pay rent,*

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utilities, buy food and gas. They are all heart-wrenching stories. State aid has been cut back and more people are looking for charitable support. Example: Last year the state paid \$550 for low-income utility support, this year they paid only \$350. Food stamp issuance has gone down and the price of food has gone up.”
“Please thank all the Vicariate parishes for their support. We couldn't extend the aid we do without them!”

5. Crittenton Chaplaincy - Spiritual Care is available to patients and families from the Crittenton Hospital Chaplain. In 2007-8, the PAV continued with its share of supporting this ministry.

Vicariate Projects:

The need for Catholic Education in the Vicariate through our Catholic Schools was recognized and addressed through the Vision 2000 plan. This long-term project has resulted in the expansion of our four Vicariate elementary schools. With the building complete, the administrative effort remains to manage the pledges through to completion.

Vision 2000 Project – In 2007-8, the vicariate continued execution of the original Vicariate Vision 2000 plan collecting nearly \$700,000 in pledged contributions to remain on schedule to retire the loans associated with this investment.

In 2007-8, the PAV began two Ad-Hoc committees to address additional vicariate needs: **1)** The implementation of the PAV Hispanic Pastoral Plan and **2)** The refinement and implementation of the PAV Pastoral Care & Spirituality Plan.

PAV Hispanic Pastoral Plan Implementation - There is a need to respond to the growing needs of the Hispanic Community. In 2007-8, a PAV Ad-Hoc Committee has been working to encourage parishes to use existing Hispanic groups and AOD development models to move forward in their goal of integrating Hispanics into parishes. Activities included:

- Bulletin announcements/invitations in Spanish
- Identification of Hispanic leadership currently involved in PAV parishes
- Spanish Versions of the PAV newsletter
- Information about CSSOC Hispanic Outreach services at PAV parishes
- Inclusion of Spanish/bilingual liturgical songs at PAV parishes
- Information about Spanish/bilingual resources for PAV Directors of Religious Education.
- Articles for the PAV newsletter to help dissipate animosity toward undocumented Hispanic population
- Parish-centered activities for women, many of whom are home without transportation

PAV Pastoral Care & Spirituality Plan Implementation – The Vicariate plan is to develop a Vicariate-wide approach to pastoral care in light of declining availability of ordained ministers and to develop better communications among parishes. Working within the framework of the previous year’s **“Report on the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick,”** and with the support of specially assigned Deacon Alex Jablonowski, the Ad Hoc committee completed a 2007-8 Pastoral Care Survey, **“The View from the Pew.”** With this analysis, they are now working to implement the plan and service coordination in the 2008-9 year.

Vicariate Administrative And Communication Activities:

In the spirit of the mission of the Pontiac Area Vicariate, “To represent the Catholic communities of the Pontiac Area Vicariate, and through our collaboration, to better serve the ministries we share”, we have endeavored to provide enhanced Vicariate communication. Vicariate Pastoral Council representatives, who report to and from their parishes, schools, agencies, and institutions, serve as the primary communication conduit to enable our collaboration. Additional communication this year was enabled through the PAV website, four 2007-8 PAV newsletters and two PAV Leadership Assemblies.

PAV Website – The PAV website is located at **“www.pontiacarevicariate.org”**. It contains the most comprehensive view of all PAV activities, plans and information. Members of our area church are encouraged to use this forum to learn about their vicariate as well as to communicate their own ministry activities to the Area Church.

PAV Newsletters – The newsletters are focused communications to our Vicariate Catholics. Distributed through parish bulletins and other manual means they are intended to provide a broad communication of current and recently passed Vicariate activities of interest in a friendly medium. In 2007-8 four quarterly newsletters were published.

PAV Leadership Assemblies – The PAV hosts two leadership assemblies each year to address the chartered tasks of: promoting pastoral plan coordination, enhancing communications and networking, and promoting collegiality and collaboration.

- In fall, 2007, the PAV **“Christian Service Activity Coordination Assembly”** engaged over 100 vicariate leaders to discuss better coordination in the use and support of the Christian Service Activities and Social Agency Programs that are already available for those we serve. The discussions were centered on major presentations from Marge Huggard (Catholic Social Services of Oakland County) and Barbara Williams (Catholic Community Response Team) and shorter presentations from several other community service providers.
- In spring, 2008, the PAV Assembly, entitled **“Discerning Ministry and Leadership in the Church outside Our Window,”** engaged leadership from the five vicariates newly assigned as a Region under Bishop Flores. Over 250 area church leaders reflected on and discussed the keynote address of Dr. Patricia Cooney-Hathaway and the comments of Bishop Flores. Organized at tables by the ministry of

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choice, they shared experiences of their ministry's joys and challenges in the context of the presented themes.

PAV 2007-8 Summary

The Pontiac Area Vicariate has diligently continued to pursue its mission, to be responsive to the ministry of its parishes, schools, institutions, and agencies by:

- Coordinating pastoral planning
- Enhancing communications and networking
- Promoting collegiality and collaboration
- Identifying and utilizing all resources which can be shared

2007-8 has been a year of blessings and challenges. Through continuing support and feedback of our member organizations, we have made steady progress to help improve the capability and reach of their ministries. We are grateful for their support and the opportunity to serve our Area Church.

As the 2008-9 year approaches, we pray that our continued collaboration as the body of Christ in Oakland County will help transform our world.