



**Vicariate Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**January 5, 2010**  
**Meeting held at St. Mary of the Hills**

The meeting began at 7:05 PM with an opening prayer led by Janet Dinsmoore. VPC Chair Denise Donaldson welcomed everyone and led introductions around the room.

**Focus Items for Discussion**

**Pastoral Care of the Sick Initiative** – Fr. Stan gave a recap of the history of this effort and where we are right now.

- Originally started in response to a needs assessment in the PAV.
- Two surveys were conducted -- one of parishes and institutions, and the other of individuals -- to determine pastoral care needs and how these were or were not being met.
- An implementation plan was developed but has run into challenges that include losing some key people and the restriction that only priests can give the Sacrament of Anointing.
- While PAV priests are interested in anything that reduces emergency calls to them and helps the sick, they have not been very responsive to some ideas presented.
- The Archdiocese is very interested in this plan, having provided staff for the surveys and subsequent analysis. They want to use the PAV Pastoral Care of the Sick plan in other vicariates.
- A lot of progress has been made including placing resources on the PAV website, contacting hospitals and nursing homes, and scheduling communal anointings at parishes. The PAV newsletter has helped educate people, as did a pastoral letter on the Ministry to the Sick. (See [www.pontiacarevicariate.org](http://www.pontiacarevicariate.org) for these materials.)

Fr. Stan said that the PAV will move forward with Pastoral Care implementation. He and Fr. Jerry Brzezinski will be meeting with Joyce Hyttinen and Mike Harning from the Archdiocese to assess where things stand and make plans on how to proceed.

**New member of the Executive Committee** – Denise said that the VPC Executive Committee needs a new Vice-Chair due to the death of Jack Cashman. Jan Lumetta volunteered to take this job but stated that her term on the Christ the Redeemer parish council, and hence the VPC, ends this year. Jan will talk to her pastor and parish council and ask if her term can be extended. If this is agreeable to them, she will become the VPC Vice-Chair and join the Executive Committee.

**Reports/Updates**

**Vicar's Report** – Fr. Stan said that the Presbyteral Council will meet on January 11. Their last meeting in December focused on organizational issues and personnel changes at the AOD.

Other PAV business: Fr. Stan has been in contact with Catholic Community Response Team Director Barbara Williams regarding a grant application for the Parish Empowerment Fund. CCRT has received money from this source for several years and it provides a substantial part of their annual operating expenses. Judy and Barb will work together and submit the application before January 8. Cathy Wagner said that the grants will be awarded in February.

**Permanent Deacon Study ad hoc committee** – Ron Valade, chair of the VPC ad hoc committee on deacons, reported on this committee. He has been in contact with all the deacons in the PAV and surveyed them on their views of the diaconate. He said that the role of a deacon is to help the poor and

needy wherever they are found. Deacons are ordained by the Archbishop and assigned to parishes via an assignment office. Pastors must request a deacon before one can be assigned. There are 160 deacons in the AOD and four more will be ordained this year.

Ron's presentation included the following information:

- Deacons currently assigned to PAV parishes are: Joseph Karle, Sacred Heart of the Hills; Brian White, St. Damian; Ron Valade and Richard Hulan, St. Irenaeus; Steven Mitchell, St. Joseph; Marc Gemellaro, St. Andrew; and Eugene Kowalski, St. Mary of the Hills. Christ the Redeemer, St. Benedict, St. John Fisher, and St. Paul Albanian do not have deacons.
- Deacons serve the Pontiac Area Vicariate in parishes, homes, hospitals, nursing homes, jails, funeral homes, assisted living homes, streets and alleys, and wherever the poor and needy are found.
- The role of a deacon includes being a Minister of the Word, Liturgy, and Charity.
- Minister of the Word duties include: evangelize and teach the Word of God, preach at liturgical celebrations, conduct baptism and pre-marriage classes.
- Minister of Liturgy duties include: participating and preaching at Mass; presiding at baptisms, communion services, funeral vigils/liturgies; witness at weddings; officiate at exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Minister of Charity duties involve leading the community to live lives of service; participating in aid programs such as SOS, Manna Meal, Baldwin Soup Kitchen; and speaking out against injustice in society.

Following Ron's presentation, the Council discussed how deacons are recruited and the deacon training and formation process. Any interested candidate undergoes a lengthy screening and application process followed by four years of education. Men who are married must have their wives participate. Each of the three deacons present at the meeting told how they decided to become a deacon.

What the VPC should do next was a topic of much discussion. Ideas such as educating people on the details of the diaconate, recruiting or inviting eligible men to explore becoming a deacon, putting flyers or other information in parish bulletins, holding a vicariate-wide information night were suggested. At their next meeting, the VPC Executive Committee will discuss whether this would be a good topic for an ad hoc committee next year.

**Service Operations Report** – Dale Youngpeter gave a report on the Service Operations committee. He had originally hoped to collect metrics on the Pastoral Care implementation, but that is not possible right now since Alex Jablonowski has resigned. Rakhi McCormick is no longer the head of Genesis Ministries, having taken a new job with the Archdiocese. When someone is appointed to fill the Genesis job, Dale will contact him/her regarding the information needs of the Service Ops committee. Kathy Galbraith is now the chair of the Youth Ministry ad hoc committee, assuming the post previously held by Chris Kozlowski. Dale will give a full report on all the PAV Service Operations at the February VPC meeting. Other members of this committee are Jerry Dywasuk and Mark Joyce.

**Spring Assembly on March 11 at St. Paul Albanian** – Denise distributed a sheet on the plans for the Spring Assembly. The committee has met twice and plans are well underway. A flyer has been developed and parishes will be asked to include it in their bulletins. Judy will set up online registration and handle the RSVPs that come in. The committee will meet again on February 8 at St. Paul's.

**Archdiocesan Pastoral Council** – Art Seidler reported on changes in the APC. This group is being reinstated as the primary lay consultative group for the Archbishop with one representative from each of the 16 vicariates. Each APC member will be assigned to one of six sub-committees. These sub-committees will deal with a specific focus area and meet monthly. The APC will meet quarterly. The sub-

committees will develop 3-4 goals for their focus area and report to the Archbishop who will compose a pastoral letter to the Archdiocese with the long range plan for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Another plan is to hold four regional assemblies for the purpose of sharing information around the vicariates. Surveys and feedback will be collected at these assemblies and analyzed by the Department of Parish Life.

Steve Lawless, former chair of the PAV Vicariate Council, has applied to be the representative to the APC from our vicariate. The new APC will meet for the first time in February.

**Open Forum/Communications**

- Cathy Settle said that Knights of Columbus will host a benefit pancake breakfast on Sunday, January 17, in the St. Benedict Social Hall from 10am – 12:30pm. All money collected from the free will offering will go directly to aid medical expenses for an injured parishioner.
- Christ the Redeemer is having a “Recession Depression” presentation on Thursday, January 21, at 7:00 PM. Bill Vallier, Licensed Master Social Worker, will provide valuable information and tools to help transform depression, grief and fear into hope and gratitude. The presentation, focused for adults, will take place in the Bethany Room at Christ the Redeemer. Please RSVP to 248-391-1621, Ext. 35.
- Bravehearts, a men’s group that meets at St. Joseph parish in Lake Orion, is hosting Fr. John Riccardo on Saturday, January 9, 2010. The schedule is: Mass 7:30 AM, Registration 8:30 AM, Program and Speaker: 9:00 – 10:30 AM. Contact (248) 693-6215 x401 or email [bravehearts@stjosephlakeorion.org](mailto:bravehearts@stjosephlakeorion.org) for more information.

The meeting ended at 9:10 PM.

**Upcoming VPC Meetings**

**VPC Meetings: February 2, 2010 at St. Mary of the Hills, 7:00 PM**  
 March 2, May 4  
 Spring Assembly - March 11, 2010 at St. Paul Albanian

**Attendance**

Cathy Wagner	Archdiocese of Detroit
Jan Lumetta	Christ the Redeemer
Dale Youngpeter	Christ the Redeemer
Bonnie Banaszek	Pastoral Ministers' Association
Judy Gordon	PAV Administrative Assistant
Janet Dinsmoore	Sacred Heart of the Hills
Dianne Bubnar	St. Andrew
Kit Wojcik	St. Andrew
Cathy Settle	St. Benedict
Art Seidler	St. Irenaeus
Denise Donaldson	St. Joseph
Jerry Dywasuk	St. Joseph
Mary Margaret Brosch	St. Mary of the Hills
Mark Joyce	St. Mary of the Hills
Fr. Stan Ulman	St. Mary of the Hills
Dila Dusovic	St. Paul Albanian
Joe Pauwels	St. John Fisher
Dawy Gonzalez-Ruiz	St. John Fisher
Deacon Ron Valade	St. Irenaeus
Deacon Eugene Kowalski	St. Mary of the Hillds
Deacon Marc Gemellaro	St. Andrew

