

Blue Water Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting

Holy Family, Memphis

May 13, 2009

The meeting began at 7:15. Fr. Nick started with a prayer to Our Lady of Fatima as it was her feast day.

Members Present:

VPC Members Present: Vicar – Fr. Nick Zukowski; Holy Family – Charlie Peace; Holy Trinity – Mercedes Fox, Sharon Bender, Mary Suarez; Immaculate Conception – Theresa Austin; Our Lady On The River – Roberta Ivan, Catherine Nutter; St. Augustine – Gerry St. John, Gerard Szczerbinski; St. Mary Queen of Creation – Larry Paczkowski (APC), Rick Wirick; Campus Ministry – Erik Coules; Christian Service – Deacon John Connors; DRE's – Tina Kovalcik; Principals – Helen Casper; Youth Ministry – Deanna White; AOD Facilitator – Lory McGlennen and Vicariate Secretary – Debie Hauer.

Guests Present

Our Lady on the River – Paul Ivan; Catholic Services – Patrick Cogley

Clarification to February 2009 minutes

Campus Minister Eric Coules does have an office.

REPORTS

Reports that had not been emailed were handed out. One was the February 24, 2009 report of the Blue Water Vicariate's meeting with the Tracking Committee. A lot of conversation ensued. The reps from Our Lady on the River were not happy with the statement in the tracking committee report that the merger for their parish was having trouble. Lory will clarify with the tracking committee. Lory said that they need to hear that the plan of keeping multiple sites is not working. The community does not merge it is still us vs. them. Fr. Nick stated that he is grateful for their input and said it will be helpful to have their comments injected.

The rep from Cardinal Mooney questioned item #7 which stated that "the regional high school is not a parish school but needs a pastor delegate. This has been a bit of a sore point for the pastor where the school is located." Fr. Nick clarified that the priest isn't needed as administrator but as a clergy representative. The Principal is the administrator. The rep from Holy Trinity stated that the second bullet for item #6 is not accurate. Both St. Stephen and St. Joseph were packed on Easter and Christmas. Lory clarified that that statement means on a regular Sunday. Fr. Nick asked how full the churches are on a regular Sunday. The answer was that they are full but there are not a lot of Mass times. Fr. Nick said parishes would be asked to add Masses before building.

APC

Report submitted. No Questions

DRE

Report submitted. Discussion: Tina learned that during Lent North Macomb Vicariate did something where the people went from parish to parish. It brought all of the people of the vicariate together. We liked the idea of a Vicariate Wide Lenten Season. Lory suggested that the DRE's could make a plan and bring a request and plan to VPC to add to our budget for next year.

PRINCIPALS

Report submitted. No Questions.

YOUTH MINISTRY

No Report submitted.

CAMPUS / YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Report submitted. Discussion: Eric asked us to remove the part of his report asking the VPC members to sponsor some to the money that is in the young adult fund. Roberta asked Eric about the treatment he receives at St. Clair Community College. He said he is treated fine. It is Campus Ministry that is not thriving. In fact at SC4 all clubs are struggling. It depends who is in charge of the college at the time on how these clubs are supported.

CARDINAL MOONEY HIGH SCHOOL

Report submitted. No Questions

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Report handed out at meeting. No Questions.

ADULT FORMATION

No Report

NEW BUSINESS/ GUEST SPEAKER

Patrick Cogley from Catholic Social Services of St Clair County came to speak to us about Catholic Social Services (CSS). CSS has been in business for 62 years supplying a variety of services. The services are tailored to our County's needs. He gave a plenty of material to take back to our parishes. When we get people in need we can send them to CSS. If they can't help them they can refer them to someone who can. CSS is not supported financially by the Archdiocese of Detroit. The counseling services are not free. He said that at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel the K of C and the Daughters of Isabella started a fund. Regular members of the parish who need counseling but cannot afford it can get the money from this fund.

OLD BUSINESS

Fr. Nick brought up our suggestion to include prayers for vocations at the end of Mass. The Vicariate Clergy decision was unanimous. We do pray for vocations at the Prayers of the Faithful and they feel that is the proper time. Likewise the idea about training for Funeral Wake teams was not accepted. All of the Pastors are satisfied with the way they are currently doing things in regard to funerals. We are all efficiently reaching out to our families while they are grieving. Gerri stated that the thought was to get more people involved in funeral wake services. Fr. Nick said that should be handled at the Parish level not the Vicariate level.

Mission Statement: Lory brought hand outs to help us write a new mission statement. We are to read the material. Our June meeting we will work on our new statement. Come prepared to break into groups to re-write our draft.

Fr. Nick explained that Mike Whaelen from CTS was supposed to talk to us about helping people who are out of work. Instead he came to the All Staff luncheon. Each parish should send reps to a training session so they can come back to our parish and train others. We do not want to duplicate services from parish to parish. Fr. Nick will find out where the training is offered. Lory said the AOD is currently collecting data of what is happening at parishes so duplicating is not going on. The three parishes that are currently doing this are overwhelmed.

VICAR

Report from Fr. Nick Zukowski, Vicar to the Blue Water Vicariate Pastoral Council May 13, 2009

May's Vicar's Council Meeting: The meeting was moved up to April 29, 2009. Two preliminary topics were discussed before the general meeting.

1) The Catholic Youth Organization has experienced a severe decrease in income, especially from the United Way. They have gone from a staff of 34 to 13, and still need to make cuts in formerly provided services. Because of this drastic economic situation, effective January of 2010, the CYO will be charging each parish a \$10 per child per sporting event participation fee, in addition to former fees and charges. This caused a concern among pastors of parishes with schools, who could face additional fees of thousands of dollars.

2) The Central Services Assessment Task Force gave an update to the Vicars Council in light of its mission and available resources. They have until August 15th to survey vicars, pastors, newly-ordained, senior priests, deacons and parish staff members about the mission and activity of Central Services, such as: what departments and offices to regularly interact with? How can these services be improved to carry out more effectively the mission of Central Services and the mission of the Archbishop "to share Christ in and through the Church?"

At the meeting, the following agenda items were covered:

1) Mr. Mike Hovey, Assistant Advisor for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs for the Archdiocese of Detroit handed out a request for all Vicars to comment on what they are doing specifically in their vicariates and parishes in the area of "grass roots ecumenical/interfaith activity." Please forward the information to Mr. Hovey at hovey.michael@aod.org. or by phone at (313) 237-4678.

2) Monsignor John Kasza of the Office of Christian Worship gave practical suggestions on how to handle the swine flu virus concerns. There is no movement at this time to cancel Masses or to suspend the use of the Sign of Peace or Communion from the Cup. Ironically, more germs are transmitted by receiving Holy Communion on the tongue than in the hand.

3) Monsignor Mike Bugarin gave a summary of the survey sent out regarding the distribution of AOD materials by e-mail. The vast majority are supportive; it is usually the pastor who sorts out the AOD materials; 229 surveys were turned in, 108 from priests. The next step is to try it out with a handful of parishes and see how it works out.

4) As far as we know, the 2009 Presbyteral Convocation at Boyne Highlands is still on. Monsignor Mike LeFevre has taken over the coordination of this event.

5) Comments from Archbishop Vigneron: He is looking forward to the priesthood and transitional diaconate ordinations and asks us to keep the men in our prayers. The meetings with clergy are wrapping up -- only three more left -- and they have been very informative. He will discern his role as a leader of priests and of reaching consensus of ideas. He is currently involved in dialogue with rabbis and Jewish leaders who are encouraged and inspired by his visits and his friendship. He would like to see more discussion not only on social and civic matters for the common good, but would like to see more discussion about common theological issues.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20

Next meeting is June 10, 2009

Immaculate Conception bring refreshment