

Blue Water Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting

Holy Family, Memphis

January 14, 2009

Gerry St. John brought the meeting to order at 7:08.

Deacon John read Mark 1:7-11.

Fr. Joe Horn led us in a reflection on being a “Child of God.”

Minutes from November 12, 2009 were approved.

VPC Members Present: Fr. Joe Horn ; Cardinal Mooney – Craig LaDuke; Holy Family – Catherine Wullaert, Doug Fournier, Charlie Peace; Holy Trinity – Immaculate Conception – Theresa Austin, Amy O’Gara; Our Lady On The River – Roberta Ivan, Catherine Nutter; St. Augustine – Gerry St. John, Gerard Szezerbinski; St. Edward On The Lake – Sarah Rutkowski, Hank Rutkowski; St. Mary St Clair- Fred Kilcline; St. Mary Queen of Creation – Larry Paczkowski (APC); Christian Service – Deacon John Connors; Principals – Helen Casper; Youth Ministry – Deanna White; AOD Facilitator – Lory McGlennen and Vicariate Secretary – Debie Hauer.

APC

The December meeting of the APC was cancelled due to Bishop Reiss’ Health.

DRE

The DRE’s are still working on a vicariate home study program. They are working on a Baptism preparation to be offered vicariate wide. Catechist certification topic #18 is being offered this Saturday, January 17th at Immaculate Conception. Next meeting: Jan 15 at Holy Family Parish.

PRINCIPALS

The principals of the Archdiocese are invited to attend Part II of the NCEA (National Catholic Education Association) retreat at St. John’s Center on January 15 & 16 with facilitator Lee Nagel, Executive Director of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership.

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Mary in Port Huron hosted an Epiphany Party for the youth of our vicariate and also invited some of the parishes from the Thumb Vicariate. On January 2, there were around 100 youth from these two vicariates gathered to rejoice in the coming of our Savior. There were items such as board games, table tennis and air hockey, mixed in with a prayer experience about the journey of the Magi. We are going to review this evening at our meeting next Tuesday to see if we want to make this a yearly gathering for the youth.

The High School Youth Conference Rainbow will be held in Detroit on February 14-15 . Some of our parishes will be attending this yearly event. Our spring retreat with the National Evangelization Team is set for March 29 at St. Mary St. Clair. Net is a group of college age young adults who travel around the country spreading the gospel of Jesus to youth. They share personal witness stories to help the youth gain a greater understanding of the meaning of a “personal relationship” with Christ.

Please encourage your high school seniors to ask your youth ministers or DRE’s about college scholarships. There is a \$1500.00 scholarship available through the Coughlin Scholarship Fund from Farmington. Next meeting is Tuesday.

CAMPUS/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The Newman and Inter varsity Christian Fellowship clubs have Bible study in the Private Dining Room every Monday from 12-1.

There are still a few spaces available for Students and Young adults who are interested in going on the Alternative Spring Break Mission trip to Tijuana. We will leave March 7th and return March 14th. Any one interested in going please call Eric by January 21st at 810 689-8560. Currently they have five for sure and a few others are tentative.

Another newsletter should be coming out in the beginning of Feb.

All planning of events are currently still on hold as the college moves at record slow motion to approve of our new Adviser. The current wait is with HR, as soon as they say John Kowalski is okay then we can proceed. I guess they are looking through the contract since he is an adjunct faculty member. I am going through all the proper channels and doing everything I can to make this process go faster... Activities that are already in place are still allowed but without an adviser we cannot submit any paper work, and to host any event we must submit paper work.

I am enjoying taking a radio broadcasting course here which allows me to be a member of the Newman Club. I was going to take Spanish but the cost for Level one Spanish was close to eight hundred dollars whereas radio was only two hundred...

I hope to get a record turn out for Ash Wednesday this year. About two weeks before I would like to get the parishes to make announcements and put the location and times in their bulletins. I will be speaking with the Parish Secretaries in a few weeks to ensure this may happen.

CARDINAL MOONEY HIGH SCHOOL

After five years of fundraising the construction for the new addition has officially begun. Construction began on December 15, 2008. The old portable classrooms have been torn down. The construction site has been cleared to the south of the school. The ground is ready for footings. Pictures of the progress can be viewed at www.cardinalmooneycatholic.com. The Boys and Girls Basketball Teams are off to a great start. Both are ranked in the top 10 in the Times Herald Sports Polls. They are in the Times Herald daily.

The Cardinal Mooney Annual Auction will be held in the activities center on Saturday, April 25th. It will begin with a Mass celebrated at 4:00 PM at Holy Cross Church with auction to follow at 5:00 pm.

There has been a lot of interest in next years enrollment.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The Christian Service Coordinators of the Blue Water Vicariate met on October 9, 2008. They decided to evaluate the Vicariates ability to meet the basic needs of God's people, specifically the needs of food, clothing and shelter. It appears that these three areas are being met generally throughout the Vicariate. Emergency shelter was a concern. In the Port Huron area it appears that currently the needs are met. There are plans to even prevent homelessness county wide. Supported housing is quite extensive and this also helps meet homelessness needs.

The Food Depot had a Christmas ornament sale to raise money for food purchased from Eastern Michigan Food Co-op. About \$10,000.00 was collected.

The next meeting s January 22, 2009

A discussion ensued about Angel Food Ministries. Angel food ministries are a service where people can buy \$60 of food for \$30. Every one qualifies. For more information go to www.angelfoodministry.org.

ADULT FORMATION

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Lory informed us that the Blue Water Vicariate meets with the Tracking Committee on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. Dinner will be served from 5pm to 6pm with the meeting starting at 8. Two reps from APC, the Vicar, The VPC Chairperson the Bishop and Lori will meet with the Tracking Committee.

The question was asked if we nominated anyone for the Martin Luther King award this year. We did not.

NEW BUSINESS

Fr. Joe Horn asked questions about the future cluster partner plan we previously discussed. Lory explained that the Cardinal is not willing to close churches unless the church themselves ask to close. So our only option so far is to Cluster/Merge. Lory gave us some information regarding the Archbishop's plans for meeting the priests. The plans are in the final stages. There will be eight regional meetings for eighteen vicariates. Then the Archbishop will attend the different Vicariate Clergy meetings. The Vicar will receive the information first.

OPEN FORUM

Several people handed out flyers advertising upcoming events at their parishes. These flyers are on file with the minutes.

FR. JOE'S COMMENTS

Report on the Vicars' Meeting of January 6, 2009

Sub-Committee Meetings:

Parish Life (attended by Fr. Joe Esper): The report "Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan – Together in Faith Implementation" was reviewed.

Administration (attended by Fr. Joe Horn): over \$9 million is owed by various parishes in the Archdiocese to the Archdiocese itself, and to the MCC. They discussed the following:

- The issue of transparency and reporting
- How to address the power of the regional bishop to enforce the rule regarding financial reports.
- Report on the LDP participating parishes 1/3 pay a little, 1/3 pay interest and minimally on the principal, 1/3 pay interest and pay down their debt.
- Old payables from previous years (07-08 financial reports) amounts= to \$3.4 million.
- Clergy health assessments in arrears of \$964,000
- Pension assessment owed \$1,101,000
- Totaling \$5.5 million outstanding from prior years
- MCC owed in back payments \$3, 474 million over 120 days overdue
- Reporting problem: 26 parishes and 4 schools have not reported
- Example given: St. Dunstan owed the AOD \$900,000 with penalties to the governments of \$800,000
- Meeting concluded with exchange of emails and a decision to meet prior to next Vicars meeting to put together a plan to recommend to the Archbishop.

General Meeting:

The scheduled agenda for the meeting was set aside due to the presence of Archbishop Allen Vigneron, whose appointment as Archbishop of Detroit was announced the previous day. (The reports of the various committee meetings will be given instead at the next Vicars' meeting.)

In introducing Archbishop Vigneron, Cardinal Maida remarked that he is grateful to the priests of the Archdiocese for their support and collaboration over the past 18 years, and he noted that the front-page story in the Free Press on Archbishop Vigneron's appointment is a positive sign of the important role the Church plays in Detroit.

(compared to other, much more secularized cities, such as Seattle). The Cardinal also stated that, because he is Apostolic Administrator until January 28, all the faculties he has granted to the vicars remain in effect until that time.

Archbishop Vigneron stated that he has always been proud to be a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit, especially as the first Detroit priest to be named Archbishop here. Our mutual knowledge of each other, he said will be both a blessing and a challenge – but mainly a blessing. His time in California made him even more aware of the need for a bishop to support his priests and that will be a priority here. He's somewhat sad to leave Oakland, but very happy to return to Detroit. This will be a daunting assignment, but he's confident of success- due to Christ's grace and to the assistance and collaboration of the presbyterate.

In answer to a question asking him to compare Oakland and Detroit, Archbishop Vigneron stated that, like Detroit, Oakland is a very diverse diocese, though with a higher percentage of Asian Catholics (Filipinos and Vietnamese). There are also many African-Americans, though not as many as in Detroit, and a large percentage of them are Catholic (due to their roots in Louisiana). Ministry in Oakland led him to understand and accept a new paradigm: not just one of tolerance, but of actively inviting minorities to share their spiritual gifts so that the entire Church might be enriched. Because of the great diversity in Oakland, the parish is considered a "community or communities." A unique challenge of ministry in Oakland is that the diocese is on the fringe of the entertainment industry, which promotes almost entirely secular values – leaving many area Catholics with a sense of alienation, or a feeling of helplessness when it comes to influencing society through their religious beliefs.

Before leaving, Archbishop Vigneron asked the Vicars to discuss the best way for him to meet with all the clergy in the first few weeks and months after his installation. There will probably be a series of regional Masses and receptions allowing, allowing the laity to meet him, but he also wants the opportunity to meet specifically with the priests. Ideas and proposals in this regard are to be shared with Msgr. McClory. In the discussion which followed the departure of Cardinal Maida and Archbishop Vigneron, there was a sense that the clergy meetings might best be accomplished on the vicariate level.

Msgr. McClory mentioned that the Catholic Schools Mass originally scheduled for January 28 will instead take place on Tuesday February 10th at 10:30 AM. He also discussed arrangements for the installation:

- Evening Prayer and Dinner at the seminary will be held for the presbyterate on Wednesday January 21.
- Cardinal Maida's Mass of Thanksgiving on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of Episcopal ordination – 3pm on Sunday January 25- is intended to be a diocesan celebration (as opposed to an event in which there are many out-of-ton dignitaries and visitors).
- A Holy Hour and/or Evening Prayer for Archbishop Vigneron with the clergy will be held on the evening of January 27.
- The installation Mass will be held on Wednesday January 28 at 2pm. Space will be limited, but laity interested in attending will have a phone number to call and as many requests as possible will be accommodated.
- An ecumenical prayer service with Archbishop Vigneron will be held the day after his installation.

This scheduling information will be faxed to all the priests.

It was announced that Fr. Ralph Kowalski had passed away (as had Fr. Ferdinand Wolber).

NEXT MEETING: February 11, 2009
St. Augustine rep brings refreshments