

Blue Water Vicariate
October 10, 2007
Minutes

Fr. David started the meeting at 7:08 with a prayer.

Present: AOD Facillitator – Lory McGlennen, Cardinal Mooney – Craig LaDuke, Holy Family – Doug Fournier & Carol Orłowski, Holy Trinity – Elwood Brown & Mercedes Fox, Immaculate Conception – Theresa Austin & Amy O’Gara, Vicar – Rev. David Burgard, Vicariate Secretary – Debie Hauer, Our Lady On The River – Jeremy Burke , Roberta Ivan, Catherine Nutter & Sandy McNeely, St. Edward On The Lake – Sarah Rutkowski & Hank Rutkowski, St. Mary in Port Huron – Garry Isaacson & Cindy Platzer, St. Mary Queen of Creation – Larry Paczkowski & Rick Wirick, Director of Religious Education – Mary Shoudy, Blue Water Principals – Helen Casper, Youth Ministers – Deanna White.

Parishes not represented: St. Augustine, St. Christopher & St. Mary’s in St. Clair

Introductions were made around the table.

September’s minutes were approved.

APC

This year’s representatives have received their confirmation. The first meeting will be in December.

DRE

Fall Formation classes will be held at St. Augustine Parish Saturday, October 20. The formation classes are free to all parishioners of our Vicariate. The Convalidation Seminar will be Nov 7, 2007 at 7pm. The location will be St. Mary in St. Clair. A Winter Prayer Day of Reflection will be held on Jan. 19, 2008 at Immaculate Conception from 9AM to 1:30 PM. A new RCIA handbook is available for \$10 each. Sister Georgette will be presenting RCIA topics at the Fall Formation Day at St Augustine’s. The next Vicariate DRE meeting will be Oct 11th at All Saints.

PRINCIPAL

The principals had a retreat on Catholic Identity & Catholic Social Teaching on Sept. 13-14 at St. John’s Center. While they were there they also updated the policy books. Schools have been administering the Iowa tests these past two weeks as well as the Archdiocese Religion Test in grades 3, 5 & 7. The principals are sending the school viability forms to the vicar, Fr. David this month as required by the vicariate schools plan. Enrollment, test scores, teacher salaries, Catholic Identity.... Are a few of the viability criteria. St. Mary/MCA in Port Huron had their ribbon cutting/dedication on Saturday, October 6 with Bishop Boyea, Fr. David & several other area clergy as well as Sr. Mary Geheringer and Sr. Fran Nadolny of the Archdiocese.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Vicariate Youth Ministers attended a Connections Conference sponsored by the CYO. It was held at the Pontiac Marriott Hotel. The theme was "How to be a Light in the Darkness". The main focus was community building. On Sunday October 7th, the Vicariate Youth Ministry Team held an event for all of the youth in our Vicariate. St. Mary in St. Clair, St. Christopher, St. Mary in Port Huron and Holy Family had youth participate.

CARDINAL MOONEY

Cardinal Mooney is having an open house on Sunday, November 4, 2007 from 1pm to 3pm. National Testing Day is Wednesday, October 17, 2007. Father Ray Memorial Scholarship Dinners will be held Saturday, October 20, 2007 in the Cardinal Mooney Activities room. Approximately 22 colleges and universities come to Cardinal Mooney to Markey their school. On the spot registration and admissions can be done with many of the universities. The question was asked: How many are enrolled at Cardinal Mooney this year? Answer: About 200.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

We need a Christian Service Vicariate Rep. Lory asked Fr. David to call Deacon John to see if he will be joining us.

SOCIAL JUSTICE/MULTI-CULTURAL

The people on the Multi Cultural committee are having health problems. Lory said we will have to re-assign people to the sub committee on VPC. She explained to the people who are new this year how the sub committees have been working. Lory will send Debbie the information on our VPC Sub Committees to be emailed with the minutes.

CLUSTERS

Our Lady on the River has a new Associate Pastor. Fr. Koshy Chirakkarottu arrived on Monday, Oct 8th for a temporary assignment. He will be helping Fr. Jim Lopez handle the weekday duties and activities until January. In January, Fr. Matt Ellis will most likely become the Associate Pastor. Fr. Matt is returning to an active ministry after a hiatus.

Holy Family held closing ceremonies for Holy Rosary. They held a 40 hour devotion which included Rosaries, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Adoration. They held a Praise and Worship Concert on Saturday Evening. The ceremony concluded with Bishop Boyea closing the building on Sunday after the final Mass. They will hold a town hall meeting on October 24th to inform the Parish of the next step in their consolidation plan.

ROSTER/VPC MEMBERSHIP

Craig discussed the importance of attendance at these meetings. He went through the Roster and asked each person if they are committed. Every one at the meeting assured that they are. We have the problem of no representation from St. Augustine, St. Christopher and St. Mary in St. Clair and Christian Service.

OLD BUSINESS

The sub group met one hour before the meeting to draft new Operational Procedures. Debie read the rough draft to everyone and will type the final draft to be sent along with the minutes. At the November meeting the VPC will discuss the final draft for approval. The following questions were asked as a result: 1) Do VPC representatives have to be on Parish Council. Answer: The VPC representative does not need to be on their Parish Council but they need to make a VPC report to their Parish Council. 2) We don't have many of the groups that are on the list represented (e.g. Music Ministry). Answer: Each of these groups should be encouraged to meet as a Vicariate and send a rep to VPC. The VPC should encourage this.

VICAR'S REPORT

Fr. David informed the group that an ad has been ordered to thank our Senior Priests. A 4 x 6 article is to be in the Michigan Catholic Oct 28th. The second part of the plan was to treat the Senior Priests to dinner. At the Vicariate Clergy meeting the Priests decided that the best way to do this would be for the Vicar and the VPC Chair to take the Senior Priests to lunch.

Some needed the School Support Agreement clarified. Fr. explained that before the Port Huron and the Belle River vicariates merged and became the Blue Water Vicariate the Port Huron already had a School Support Agreement in place. The other half of the Vicariate (the former Belle River) started their agreement last year. Based on the last two years of offertory collections, each parish give into the fund. The Parish with schools each receives from the fund. Cardinal Mooney gets a double portion because they are the only High School. Fr. Joe Esper (the former Vicar of the Port Huron Vicariate) is overseeing the Port Huron area agreement. The Blue Water Priests will be meeting with Fr. Esper to merge the two agreements this year to begin next year.

Fr. David told us about the Priests Convocation. Fr. Ron Rotheisen was the speaker. Two hundred and fifty priests attended. The focus was on their common mission. They opened up some scripture passages and saw them in a new light. They compared them with the church today.

OPEN FORUM

Helen asked about the article in the Michigan Catholic regarding the Parishes becoming incorporated separately. Fr. said it will not affect our day to day operation. Right now everything in the Arch Diocese is in Cardinal Mida's name. The change will be that the property of each parish will be in the Pastors name. This will give us better protection legally. If one Parish were to be sued all the other ones couldn't be automatically sued. We will still have the same obligation to the Diocese. Q. When the Pastor moves will we have to re incorporate? A. No, the property will be incorporated not the Pastor. They are collecting all the Pastors concerns and questions so they can all be addressed. Each Parish will have to file one time with the state and then do a yearly update. There will be a board for each parish. The board will consist of the Cardinal, the Pastor, the Moderator of Curia, the Chancellor and 1 lay person. They will be required to meet once a year. The books will be audited more often. In the past the books were audited only when there was a change in Pastors. Now there will be mini audits on a

regular basis. This is to help point out areas of concern NOT to find fault with the bookkeeper.

Lory McGlennen told us about the “Adopt a family” program that the Arch Diocese has to help needy families for Christmas. Each Parish can nominate 5 families. Last year they were able to give 150 families \$450 each. They need the names by mid November.

The meeting ended with a Hail Mary at 8:45.

The next meeting is November 7th at All Saints. Gather at 6:45 PM meeting starts at 7 PM. Our Lady on the River Parish is bringing refreshments.

Respectfully submitted
Debie Hauer