

Blue Water Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting  
All Saints, Memphis  
March 12, 2008

Fr. David began the meeting at 7:15 with a prayer. "Lenten Prayer for Spiritual Renewal"

Present: Vicar -Fr. David Burgard; Cardinal Mooney - Craig LaDuke; Holy Family - Doug Fournier; Holy Trinity – Elwood Brown & Mercedes Fox; Immaculate Conception – Benedict Echinack, Theresa Austin & Amy O’Gara; Our Lady on the River - Jeremy Burke, Roberta Ivan & Catherine Nutter; St. Augustine – Susan Thomas; St. Edward on the Lake – Hank & Sarah Rutkowski; St. Mary in St. Clair – Fred Kilcline; St. Mary in Port Huron – Garry Isaacson; St. Mary Queen of Creation Larry Paczkowski & Rick Wirick; Christian Service – Deacon John Connors; Blue Water Principals – Helen Casper; Vicariate Secretary – Debie Hauer.

Parishes not represented: St. Christopher

**REPORTS:**

**APC**

Larry was unable to attend the last APC meeting. He will bring the minutes next month.

**DRES**

No report

**PRINCIPALS**

The Principals had a meeting scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup> but it was cancelled due to weather and the fact that there were no urgent agenda items.

Two schools, Immaculate Conception & St. Edward have been recommended for re-accreditation by their visiting teams. March 13<sup>th</sup> there is an archdiocese principals meeting at the seminary on Staff evaluations/performance appraisals. The April meeting is on the new Catechist Formation Handbook.

The vicariate Catholic schools are anxiously awaiting the SOF grant letters to help with next year’s budgeting.

The joint postcard mailing by the vicariate schools has gone out.

This time of year principals are working on budget, on marketing, on round-ups and on calendars

**CARDINAL MOONEY**

The Lady Cardinals Basketball Team is the Catholic League Champions. This gave great news paper press for Cardinal Mooney.

The Mass & Brunch for the Top-Ten Graduates & their families was held Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>. Top Ten Academic Seniors were honored on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Open House was held on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. It was a joint open house with Holy Cross

The Journey of Faith School Addition Project currently has \$779,000.00 banked with the Archdiocese.

The 2008/2009 Operating Budget has been submitted to the Archdiocese.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual auction fundraiser will be on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Marine City.

### **CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

Deacon John Connors reported that he is very impressed with the many activities that go on in the Blue Water Vicariate Christian Service commissions. They haven't met as a vicariate since our last meeting.

### **MERGED PARISHES**

Holy Family – Coming along

Holy Trinity - This will be the third year the Holy Trinity rotated sites for their Trideuum services.

Our Lady on the River – Rotated their Trideuum services at their sites also. The Living Stations of the Cross were held at Holy Cross.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The material/petition for Comcast has been sent to the AOD via Lory McGlennen.

### **SUB COMITTEES**

Lory was going to speak on the Multi Cultural/Christian Service project in April, however she was not present to discuss it at tonight's meeting. The committee does not feel like they can be prepared so the plan will have to be discussed in April for a future presentation.

### **OPEN FORUM**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe* reports that their Fish Fry's are going very well. They are in the process of hiring a new Administrator/Christian Service coordinator to replace Sr. Barbara. Sr. Barbara needs to slow down but wont. She puts in a lot of hours in the community. She will still be involved once she gives up this job but won't have the physical demands any more.

*St. Mary in Port Huron* raised \$5,000.00 at a Roast Beef dinner for their boiler project. Their boiler is 50 years old. They need to raise \$500,000.00 to replace it.

*Holy Family* had a construction meeting last night for 7 ½ hours to plan their new family center. They are starting with the Family Center. At a later date a new church will be

built connected to the family center. They will be having another meeting next week as there is so much to discuss.

*Young Adults* will have a conference in Ann Arbor for Young Adults in the Detroit and Lansing Dioceses on March 29, 2008. There is also a young adult evening on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary in Saint Clair. Called Holy Grounds it is a coffee house atmosphere where young adults can discuss their faith.

## **VICAR'S REPORT**

On April 29, 2008 Bishop Boyea starts in the Lansing Diocese. He is unable to join us before he goes. He sends his prayers and support to us and his appreciation for all the work the VPC does.

Bishop Flores will be the responsible Bishop for the Thumb, Blue Water, North Macomb and Pontiac Area and South West vicariates for the time being. His background will be an asset because of the Hispanic influence in the area. Sarah asked about Bishop Boyea's installation. Is it by invitation only? Are their people going to go together? Sarah pointed out that we will have another VPC meeting before then.

At the Council of Vicars meeting the Vicars received a hand out on Poverty and Racism. It suggests that we separate the two issues and examine them more, then join them back together. It was an eye opening document. It showed how many laws have increased racism. The Vicars also talked some more about Catholic Schools and the deeper issues they are facing. Financial is only a start of the problems. **Our Catholic Schools agreement was held up as an example.** Some parishes are not interested in supporting Catholic Schools. This is an issue we need to deal with. The church leadership is not in agreement. Helen mentioned that health care cost is a big part of the financial problems. It costs approximately \$5 thousand per employee. Gary asked why some pastors don't support Catholic Schools. He said that they keep parishes young and vibrant. Fr. David said there could be many reasons. Someone asked why we are building Austin instead of utilizing the ones we have. We will be hearing more about it.

Fr. David has been our Vicar since April of 2002. His term is now up and it is time to select a new Vicar. The process is as follows: 1) A discussion with all of the Pastors. 2) Select 2 or 3 candidates to send to the AOD. 3) Through discussion and the Holy Spirit one Pastor is selected. They hope to have a couple of names from the April Clergy meeting to bring to VPC to then send to the Archdiocese.

All parishes have paid their part of the Vicariate budget. Not all have paid their Catholic School support agreement. On April 1, 2008 there will be a meeting with Fr. Esper to merge the Catholic Schools agreement with the former Port Huron and Belle River vicariates.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 9, 2008.

Immaculate Conception will bring the food.

Respectfully submitted by Debie Hauer.