

Blue Water Vicariate Pastoral Council  
Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2007

Fr. David began the meeting at 7:15 by thanking everyone for coming. He asked everyone to sign in on the sign in sheet. Although Lory McGlennen and Bishop Boyea we unable to attend the meeting tonight, Fr. David introduced them as our Archdiocesan contact and regional Bishop. Fr. David introduced himself as our Vicar then asked all new members to raise their hands.

After the opening prayer, all present introduced themselves.

In attendance were: Deanna White & Doug Fournier – Holy Family, Elwood Brown, Mercedes Fox and Mary Suarez – Holy Trinity, Theresa Austin, Fr. David Burgard (Vicar), Amy O’Gara & Debie Hauer (Secretary) – Immaculate Conception, Jeremy Burke, Roberta Ivan & Catherine Nutter – Our Lady on the River, Helen Casper, Sarah Rutkowski & Hank Rutkowski – St. Edward on the Lake, Garry Isaagson & Mary Shoudy – St. Mary Port Huron, and Larry Paczkowski & Rick Wirick – St. Mary Queen of Creation.

Fr. David introduced Debie Hauer as Vicariate Secretary. Minutes were read and a question was asked about how Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel’s leaving our Vicariate will affect the Catholic School Agreement. Fr. David said that Fr. Esper will be joining the oversight committee to help merge the agreements. He will bring the information to a future VPC meeting to show how it will all work. The question was then raised why all the schools in our vicariate don’t have the same tuition and why the areas with more money don’t help the areas with less. The answer was that that would be the ideal but would be very difficult to achieve.

Fr David then thanked Mary and Mercedes from Our Lady of Guadeloupe for the delicious dinner. All showed their appreciation. This led into a discussion on what is the ideal time to arrive and the ideal time to start meeting. There was a consensus to arrive at 6:45 to eat and visit. The meeting will start at 7 sharp. The goal is to have the meeting last one and one half hours. Craig asked if everyone could bring a bullet point report for their area to hand out to everyone. It was decided that they would read their bullet report then give a copy to the secretary.

**APC**

Two new reps are needed for APC as one of the previous reps was from Sacred Heart which is no longer in our Vicariate and the other rep is no longer involved with VPC. Doug Fournier and Larry Paczkowski agreed to do it.

**DRE**

Mary Shoudy reported that the DRE’s worked out their Formation Days. The calendar is set. The DRE for each parish will chip in \$150.00 from their own budget so the formation will be free for the Catechists. There will be an Annulment Seminar at St.

Phillip in the spring. A Convalidation seminar will be held at St. Mary's in St. Clair. No date has been set for the Convalidation seminar yet. The Leadership Conference is coming up beginning Oct 13<sup>th</sup>. Fr. David suggested that anyone interested call their parish because the parish will get a cheaper ticket price for more registrations.

### **PRINCIPAL REPORT**

Principals met on 8/16 discussed in-service on staff evaluation. They hosted a teacher in-service for vicariate on 8/29 on teacher's role in marketing and school positive climate. School started after Labor Day. A principal retreat begins tomorrow (Thursday 9/13) at St. John's Center. St. Edward had its grand opening on August 19<sup>th</sup>. St. Mary/McCormick will have their grand opening on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Boyea is calling schools for his annual visit & celebration of a school liturgy. The cost to St. Edward, St. Mary Port Huron and to McCormick Academy from Sacred Heart and OLMC leaving is \$7000 a piece in school support.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Deanna White reported for Youth Ministry. She asked where the money that was earmarked for Youth Leader went. Answer: This is the first year we have a budget with specific breakdowns. She asked what has been done with the names that were submitted for a young adult committee. Answer: They were given to Krista for her to contact. Jeremy stated that he is on that list and was contacted.

The Fall Gathering for our vicariate youth is at St. Mary in Port Huron for all youth in grades 7-12 on Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 9 pm. Deacon Mark Springer will be the main presenter. Mass is included. Flyers were handed out.

Any Parish who has a youth minister who may not be able to attend the Youth Ministers meeting, are asked to recommend that they send a representative.

They are looking at the possibility of offering the Encounter Program, which was first the Encuentro program for the Hispanic Community.

Along with the topics for Catechists, at the Fall and Spring gathering days they will be offering a topic on Youth Ministry and RCIA. These topics will be open to ALL adults, not just catechists or team members. The cost is free for any adult in our vicariate.

### **CARDINAL MOONEY**

Enrollment is up 20%. They are now close to 200 including 20 new foreign exchange students from Korea, Germany, Austria, Brazil and Thailand.

"Meet the Teacher Night" is a new tradition which was held Wednesday, September 12, 2007. It is a chance for parents to go through their child's schedule and meet each of their teachers.

CMHS ranked among the highest in the area in the Michigan Merit Exam Scores. Homecoming Football game September 21<sup>st</sup> and dance is September 2<sup>nd</sup> at Freedom Hill. New staff members are Mrs. Shelia Titcombe in English, Mr. Jonathon Pickett in Government and Mrs. Marilyn McBride-Gowdz as Campus Minister. A Freshman retreat was held on Harsens Island September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **MERGERS**

Holy Trinity – Woody reported that they had their first Parish Council meeting. Everything is going well as planned. There is a lot more activity and they are working well together.

Holy Family – Holy Rosary closes on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

They haven't met. They did not have representation. Craig distributed a map from Lory that was the result from the survey done last spring. The only parish that didn't respond was St. Augustine. Debie Hauer has the contact information for the Christian Service rep from St. A's and will contact her to ask for cooperation.

## **ROSTER/VPC MEMBERSHIP**

Woody asked if Missions can have a rep. Fr. David said he thought it could be. **Lory** left us guidelines. We need to put a sub committee together to work out the procedures for VPC now that we have merged parishes. Fr. David's opinion is that we need to have two "official" members from each parish that report back to their respective parish councils. In terms of coming to the meeting more should be welcome. We don't want to turn people away.

Elwood Brown, Theresa Austin, Craig LaDuke, Fr. David and Lory McGlennen agreed to be on the sub committee to work on the procedures for VPC.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Mary Shoudy requested emails for every parish. Fr. David introduced Amy O'Gara our Vicariate web site administrator and newsletter editor. Amy said the email addresses for each parish is available on the Vicariate web site. She explained that any events that needed advertising needs complete information such as ticket price and contact person etc.

Fr. David distributed the Mission Statement from the former Belle River Vicariate. He suggested that it be revised or adopted for the Blue Water vicariate at a later discussion.

Bob Weber from St. Mary's in St. Clair addressed the group. He started by reading a letter from the newspaper about our retired priests. He came to suggest we do something nice to thank our Senior Priests for all of their efforts to help us with the shortage of Priests. His suggestion was to take them out to dinner. All agreed that would be nice. Discussion ensued about the details. Money was not budgeted for this year. It was felt that we could still afford it. It was decided that the Priests and VPC member would also attend this dinner. It was agreed that it should be an annual thing. October 28<sup>th</sup> is Priesthood Sunday. It would be nice to have it that day; however, that is not really enough notice for this year. Fr. David will take this idea to the Priest at the next Vicariate

Clergy meeting on Oct 9th and bring it back to us for our Oct meeting. It is not necessary to pull this together by Oct 28<sup>th</sup> this year but that would be a good date for future years. Some of the Senior Priests will need rides to dinner. Fr. David suggested that the vicariate put an ad in the Michigan Catholic. The ad will list their names and thank them for their service. All agreed. Fr. David and Debie will get this done.

Cardinal Mooney will bring the food next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50

Respectfully Submitted

Debie Hauer