

Blue Water Vicariate Pastoral Council Meeting
All Saints, Memphis
February 13, 2008

Fr. David started the meeting at 7:09 with a prayer

Present: Vicar – Fr. David Burgard; Holy Family – Doug Fournier; Holy Trinity – Elwood Brown, Mercedes Fox & Mary Suarez; Immaculate Conception – Theresa Austin & Benedict Ehinack, Our Lady On The River – Jeremy Burke, Roberta Ivan, Catherine Nutter & Sandy McNeely; St. Augustine – Susan Thomas; St. Edward On The Lake – Sarah Rutkowski & Hank Rutkowski; St. Mary in St. Clair – Fred Kilcline; St. Mary Queen of Creation – Larry Paczkowski & Rick Wirick; Adult Formation – Lucy Sebastian; Campus Minister – Erik Coules; Christian Service – John Connors; Director of Religious Education – Mary Shoudy; Bluewater Principals – Helen Casper; Youth Ministers – Deanna White; Vicariate Secretary – Debie Hauer

Parishes not represented: St. Mary in Port Huron and St. Christopher

January minutes were read. Youth Ministry report was omitted. It will be added for the record. Minutes were approved with that addition.

APC REPORT

APC has not met since the last VPC meeting. They meet next month.

DRE REPORT

The DRE's will meet this Tuesday, February 19th at the Vicariate All Staff Luncheon.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

The principals met Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at St. Mary's in St. Clair. A joint marketing endeavor was finalized. It will be a mass mailing with all schools & websites. This is in a spirit of cooperation not competition. Evaluation of the Academic Olympics was done. The group was pleased with the outcome & the participation. Plans were begun for a teacher in-service for late August. Immaculate Conception and St. Edward's schools are having site visits soon for re-accreditation. All vicariate parishes are thanked for their support of Catholic schools and asked to please continue to encourage Catholic school enrollment.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Erik Coules reported that at the last Youth Ministry meeting they talked about Rainbow. They compared their plans. Catholic Relief Services and Youth Ministry downtown are doing a joint endeavor; a Mission Trip to Ecuador. This is a pilot program. They hope to open it up to more parishes down the road.

They also discussed World Youth Day at Home. Catherine asked when the deadline for sign up is. Erik believes it is May 15th. He said that it costs about \$3,200.00 to go to Australia and less than a hundred to go to the at home event. The at home event is in Sidney Ohio which is about 4 ½ hours away just below Finley Ohio. They will be staying at a Catholic high school. Go to www.aodonline.org for more information. Look under News and Publications then click on World Youth Day 2008. The deposit of \$50 is due April 11th and the final payment due May 23rd total cost is \$90.

CAMPUS/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Ash Wednesday at the Newman Center had a very small turn out. There were two Priests, Two Students, Erik and the Times Herald. The Times Herald did a very good write up about it.

Three students are going to Tijuana for the Mission Trip. There is one more opening. The cost is a couple hundred dollars. There will be a Texas Hold Em fundraiser which was moved to March 1st. Proceeds from the fundraiser are to help with the cost of the Mission Trip.

CARDINAL MOONEY

Dream Catchers Quartet came in first place in the Sweet Adeline's Young Women in Harmony Contest. They now advance to compete in San Antonio, Texas in June 2008. Girls Varsity basketball are the League Champions. The bowling team is scheduled to compete for the Catholic League Championship on Saturday, February 16th.

The Capital Campaign is going very well. They would like to break ground this year. They are getting organized. Fred asked if the new addition will allow more enrollments. The answer was yes. Enrollment will be able to go from 200 to 300. Tuition is about \$6,500.00. Sarah asked if the families get a break if they have more than one student. The answer is yes. Mary Shoudy asked what the bussing is like. Answer: There are drop off and pick up points. Craig offered to get the schedule she needs it.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Deacon John Connors reported: The next Christian Service meeting will be Tuesday, February 19th at the All Staff Luncheon. Deacon Connors did want to share information about the Blue Water Food Depot. The Depot has moved and is now located in the old Biermots (SP?) carpet store. Overseen by St. Vincent de Paul but supported by all the churches in the area they are not real strict about boundary lines. A client does need to have a referral and then they are allowed to "shop" for their groceries. The question was asked about donations. All donations are gratefully accepted however monetary donations are the most helpful because the Depot can shop at the Eastern Michigan Food Co-op. There \$1 can buy \$14 of food. Craig suggested that they put information in the Drift. Deacon John said he will write something up.

ADULT FORMATION

The Detroit Diocese has partnered up with the University of Dayton, and can now offer ministry college classes on line at a significant savings. For more information you can e-mail the University of Dayton at www.vlc.udayton.edu

Megan McKenna is coming to Sacred Heart Seminary on March 12th. A registration form may be obtained on the web-site www.aodonline.org

Father Richard Fragomeni will be at St Stephen on March 13th and reflect on the Triduum. Lector starts at 7PM. Tickets are \$10.00.

Parish Leadership conference: We will hold the event one more year at St Mary in St Clair. Msgr. Zenz will be the key-note speaker, and the 5 new Catechetical topics along with other topic will be offered. Because Mnsgr. Zenz is from the Detroit area, the key-note cost will be considerably less.

MERGERS

Doug Fournier said that Holy Family is having some struggles with all the changes. All have hope for good things to come. Fr. Bauer is ill and unable to help at this time. Bob Webber said that Fr. Lopez from Our Lady on the River has only been a Priest for 3 years and he has three churches plus Mariner Days. Catherine Nutter said that she believes lots of blessings have come from Our Lady's merger. She believes there is lots of excitement about all the things to come. She is also very comfortable at any of the sites. Woody Brown reported that Holy Trinity now has help from a Priest from Cammeroon. Fr. Alain Mayama is mostly working at the Port Huron hospitals. Our Lady of Guadeloupe has now blended their books into Holy Trinity's. Some of the Older people do not like writing their checks to Holy Trinity instead of O.L.of G. Sr. Mary Barbara is leaving. They will be placing an ad for her position.

GUEST

Bob Webber was our quest. He reminded us that he came last year to ask about appreciation for the senior Priests. He complimented the lunch we had for them. The reason he came to speak to us this time was to bring to our attention the fact that Comcast Cable has moved the Catholic Channel out of the basic cable line up and into the pricier package. It will now cost about \$47 more per month for people to have the Catholic Channel. So many shut in's are people who do not have money for this but have a need for this channel. Ms. Belle Deaver from S. Mary in St. Clair has started a petition drive to get Comcast to move the Catholic Channel back into the basic line up. Bob brought a packet of petitions for each rep to take back to their parish and get signatures.

OLD BUSINESS

Lucy said that the “Distinguished Speaker Series” will have their third and final evening on March 13th at St. Stevens from 7pm to 9pm. The topic is on the Triduum and Easter.

Called to Serve will be offered at St. Mary’s in St. Clair on March 8th. Called to Serve is the teen version of Protecting Gods Children. For more information please check St. Mary’s Web Site.

OPEN FORUM

Rick suggested that the Merged Parishes do a pictorial directory. It will help the parishioners get to know each other and feel like one parish.

VICAR’S COMMENTS

The AOD formerly had the program “Sign Me Up” for evangelization. They are re-vamping it. It was formerly geared toward the city now it will be more inclusive to all Parishes.

Immaculate Conception is having a 3 day mission. Then 8 days of formation sessions. The Mission is March 1st, 2nd & 3rd at 7pm. Anyone on your staff or team that would like to come sit in and see if you would like to encourage your parish to have this mission is welcome. The follow up formation sessions will be on Wednesdays from April 2nd to May 21st. There was a request that Immaculate Conception put advertisements on the Web Site. Fr doesn’t know if the small church could hold that many but if a few from each church came they could then tell their own pastor about it.

Fr. David was not able to make it to the Martin Luther King Awards as he had a funeral. Woody talked to the recipient Bernice Lund. Fr. Brian and her family went with her. They also gave her flowers and did something at church for her. She was pleased and grateful.

The Council of Vicars talked about Catholic Schools and the decline in support. It is about more than money. The interest in Catholic Schools seems to have declined in general. Financially there is also a decline. It is a touchy situation to ask parishes that have had their schools closed to support Catholic Schools. No changes are planned right now but lots of discussion will be taking place. Another touchy situation is what is happening at the schools in the city. Schools that remain open have children that are not Catholic attending. In some the percent of non Catholics is greater than the percent of Catholics. This makes for a different atmosphere than the traditional Catholic Schools.

The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting is March 13, 2008.

St. Edward is bringing the refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Debie Hauer