

Central Macomb Vicariate Ministerial Council

Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2017

(Pending Approval)

Parishes Represented:

Vicar: *Rev Michael Cooney*

AoD: *Dcn Bill Kolarik*

Our Lady of Czestochowa: *Rev. Andrzej Maslejak*

Our Lady of Grace: *Rev Hoang Lam*

SS Cyril & Methodius: *Rev Libor Marek*

St Ephrem: *Rev Craig Giera, Dcn Ed McLeod*

St Faustina: *Rev Bogdan Milosz, Linda Reiterman, Sandy Acord, Peggy Barry Bartz*

St Jane Frances de Chantal: *Maureen Blair, Deborah Mazur*

St Mark: *Rev Stanley Obloj, Mary Jo Ruebelman*

St Martin de Porres: *Rev Nick Zukowski*

St Paul of Tarsus: *George Eichorn, Kat Fraylick*

St Peter: *Sheila Roy, Moira Shaum, Judy Coll, Deb Goff-Liegghio*

St Thecla: *Rev Radek Zablocki*

St John Providence Hospital: *Rev Joe Plawecki, Elaine Babbish*

Parishes Not Represented:

St Anne, St Blasé, St Hubert, St Louis, St Louise de Marillac, St Malachy, St Matthias, St Mary Queen of Families, St Rene Goupil, St Ronald, St Sharbel, San Francesco

ROUTINE ITEMS

- ✚ The meeting began with prayer at 1:00 p.m. Fr. Mike thanked Fr. Bogdan Milosz, and the St. Faustina staff, for their great hospitality, music and delicious luncheon.
- ✚ The minutes from the May 1, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

VICAR'S COMMENTS

✚ **Presbyteral Council/Vicars' Meeting**

- **Canonical Consultation – St. Leo Church, Detroit** – The decision has been made to close the St. Leo Church site and its relegation to profane but not sordid use, with the unanimous vote. The reasons included:
 - The St. Leo Church site is in need of repairs totaling \$900,000. The estimated repairs for the St. Cecelia Church site are about \$1.3 million.
 - It is believed that the St. Leo Church site will sell quicker than the St. Cecilia Church site. There is already a prospective buyer for the St. Leo site.

The soup kitchen, which is located in the basement of St. Leo Church is of concern. It is hoped that the soup kitchen will relocate in the same general area because the need in there.

- **Canonical Consultation – St. Philip Neri Church, Columbus** – The vote was 24-2 with 4 abstentions that St. Philip Neri Church be relegated to profane but not sordid use. St. Philip Neri Church was one of three parishes that merged into the current Holy Family Parish in Memphis. The church came together into one parish community at the primary site of All Saints Church. The other two sites, St. Philip Neri Church and Holy Rosary Church were then used less frequently. This led to the closure and sale of Holy Rosary Church. St. Philip Neri Church has not been used for liturgies for the past two years, other than a couple of funerals. The building is presently sitting empty, although it is cleaned on a regular basis. The effects of it sitting empty are clearly visible. According to the parish and finance councils, there is no real

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use for the property. There is a cemetery across the street from St. Philip Neri Church, which the parish will continue to maintain and operate.

- **Vicariate Improvement Work Group** – The question was raised; how does Synod '16, and Amazing Parish affect the vicariate and parish pastoral councils? It was suggested that the AOD do a survey in the coming year on vicars and vicariates. The current vicariate structure has been in place for a number of years. Since then, there have been several clusterings and closures. Vicariates have gotten smaller. There has been a migration of people. There has been a shortage of priests. How do we expand ministry to others? It is a good time to go back and ask whether the vicariate structures are functioning the way they had hoped, or is there a better way, even for those that are doing a good job. The Vicar is currently seen as a conduit of communication from the Presbyteral Council, Archbishop and Regional Bishop to the Vicariates and Pastors. It was asked if the Archbishop could encourage the priests to attend the vicariate meetings since many priests choose not to attend the vicariate meetings.
- **Msgr. R. McClory** – reported that the spring assignment process is coming to an end. Online giving for Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) was encouraged. There was a significant increase this year due to online giving.

PRESENTATION AND ACTION ITEMS

- ✚ **Vicariate Budget Proposal Requests** – We now have about \$14,000 in the bank. The two requests that we received are:
 - **St. Ephrem Parish** – has requested \$2,500 for the Special Needs Religious Education Program. Children and adults with various cognitive impairments, physical impairments and those who have autism attend the program. The class is open to those from the chronological age of six years and above. 25% of the people who are served are non-parishioners. The motion was passed unanimously to grant the request for \$2,500 to assist St. Ephrem Parish with the Special Needs Religious Education Program costs.
 - **Mercy in Action Day** – The total cost for the Mercy in Action Day for our vicariate is approximately \$20,000. A request for \$1,200-\$1,600 was presented to help defer the cost of feeding the volunteers breakfast and snacks at each host site. There are currently three committed sites with a possibility for a fourth. The request is for \$400 per host site. A motion was made to pay \$400 to the three committed sites (St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, St. Peter Parish and St. Ronald Parish) totaling \$1,200 with the option to pay for the fourth if it arises. Motion passed.
- ✚ **Meeting Date(s) for future Vicariate Meetings** – Discussion produced the need to meet six times throughout the year; possibly in September, October, November, February, March, and April. An option for priests to meet 2-3 times a year in a PRIESTS ONLY venue was presented and eagerly accepted. The decision was made to make the already scheduled June 19th Vicariate meeting for PRIESTS ONLY. This will give the priests the opportunity to share their immediate reactions to Archbishop Vigneron's Pastoral Letter, and perhaps have some informal study of the document. All agreed. A schedule for 2017-2018 Vicariate meetings will be put together and voted on at the first Vicariate meeting in September.

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ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICES/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Deacon Bill Kolarik

- **Amazing Parish Reboot** – Over 300 people attended; 250 in the afternoon session and 50-60 people in the evening session; representing about 60 parishes, which indicates that about a third of the parishes are maintaining a high level of interest for Amazing Parish and what that is about. There will be another Amazing Parish workshop event in August. This refresher event will be more comprehensive with Amazing Parish personnel conducting the one day session (not Pat). The August event is more for new pastors with their new teams or those who may not have attended the Amazing Parish conference last year. It will be open to lay ministers who want to start to learn the vocabulary as well.
- **Coaching Teams** – We are also working on developing coaching teams for pastors. The teams will consist of AOD personnel who will be trained by Amazing Parish personnel. These teams will learn how to walk with leadership teams, challenge them, guide them through difficulties, and show them how to build a healthy team. The trained AOD personnel will go to the individual parishes to troubleshoot any problems. They will come and walk with your parishioners or your staff or your leadership team. They will make a commitment to be there as often as we need; weekly. They will follow-up in two months, six months, whatever is required. Deacon Bill expressed; “with the sincerity of my heart I commit that and pledge that I will walk with you through the Synod letter, through Amazing Parish development; whatever is required I give you my assurances that I want to walk with you and will.”
- **Pentecost Vigil and Pastoral Letter** – We are about 12-13 days out from the release of the Pastoral Letter. The Archbishop is putting his finishing touches on it. All were encouraged to attend the Pentecost Vigil on June 3rd at 7:00 p.m. The 400 Synod members have all been personally invited. “It will be an incredible celebration. The last two vigils with the Archbishop have been just remarkable. If you haven’t experienced a vigil, this one I believe in my heart that you will be in the upper room. This will be our Pentecost. You will be in the upper room and the Spirit of the Lord is going to descend upon us at the Archdiocese. He already has. Our shepherd has been remarkable in stewarding us, in guiding us. So if you can avail yourself please come. Come early as seating will be limited. You will not be disappointed if you are able to attend.”

OPEN FORUM

- **Role of Vicar** – Fr. Michael Cooney addressed the role of the Vicar; giving examples of support for parishes and parishioners. The Vicar is the conduit for information from the parish to the regional bishop to the downtown office to the Archbishop or the Cardinal of the Archdiocese. Communication is the key because all too often we hear ‘we are not heard, much less acted on.’ Just hearing does help in healing people.
- **Speakers** - Fr. Mike addressed the request for speakers at the Vicariate meetings asking how long would they like the speaker to speak, 45 min., 30 min.? What topics would you like? What are the needs? All were invited to bring back suggestions, ideas to the next meeting.
- A priest presented questions relating to meeting with staff and leadership teams. Deacon Bill responded with: “Your leadership team is its core nucleus. It’s the body that assists you most directly. What happens a lot is that we don’t have this stream of cascading communications.

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The staff meetings don't have to occur as regularly if you have a healthy solid leadership team that is really directing other things that are going on in your parish but it is critical that as soon as you leave that leadership meeting that there is something available where people are immediately starting to hear; what happened, what direction, what decisions, what commitments were made." That needs to get handed out to the staff, the parishioners, the councils as quickly as possible. That should reduce the need for staff meetings on a regular basis. "Even with the effective meetings, your leadership team meeting is going to be very specific. It is going to be directed, very agenda driven. I don't think you need to have a leadership team meeting and a staff meeting weekly but cascading communication is essential so that it doesn't breed rumors or gossip."

- A priest felt that Amazing Parish was oriented towards big parishes and asked if they have a module that can accommodate a small parish. He only has four people on his staff. They are his team. Deacon Bill explained that having 2-3 people and a priest was perfectly acceptable. A leadership team has to be the people that you respect and trust and you know they are going to have your back. They are going to share this responsibility with you and have a frank discussion with them.

The meeting ended at 1:35 p.m.