

Monroe Vicariate Pastoral Council
Minutes from January 17th, 2018 Meeting
Held at St. John Parish - Monroe, Michigan at 7:00 pm

Members Present: Fr. D. Cybulski (Vicar), E. Hedges (VPC Chair), F. Fedorowicz (VPC Treasurer), J. Fleck (Hispanic Ministry), Sr. L. Schroeder (IHM), F. Koob (Peace & Justice), M. Laboe (Vocations), S. Zawistowicz (Catholic Schools), B. Pigula (OLMC Rep), L. Kuhlman (VPC Secretary/Evangelization Rep).

The meeting was opened with Evening Prayer led by Fr. David Cybulski.

Minutes were approved as written. Updated information in regards to the Spanish Mass offertory collection will be found under the Hispanic Ministry section below.

The March 21st, 2018 Meeting of the MVPC was discussed and by consensus cancelled.

Catholic Schools: The Strategic Planning Process Meeting is Thursday, January 18th, 2018 for all Catholic Schools in the Vicariate. During this process, plans for the next 5 years are usually set in place. We will be looking to the Archdiocese for more guidance as we plan.

SMCC: The SMCC Reverse Raffle is this Saturday, January 20th, 2018. Tickets are available through the school. Supports SMCC Athletics. For more information call the school or go to the SMCC website.

Youth Ministry: Per the Vicariate Facebook page, registration for Steubenville is being extended. It is mentioned that Rainbow is coming up in February. We are wondering how many Parishes have Youth Groups as well as what activities are currently offered through the Vicariate Youth Ministry. **Action Item: Father Cybulski will contact Nancy Dietrich in regards to more information on Youth Ministry within the Vicariate.**

IHM

- **Upcoming retreats at The River House:** February 1st, 2018, Sr. Betty Leon facilitates *“Winter: The Season of Contemplation and Courage”*. February 28th, 2018, Sr. Kathie Budesky presents *“Lent: A Special Time for Jesus’ Disciples”*. This retreat is a Lenten day of reflection focused on the Gospel of St. Mark.
- The IHMs recently held their Chapter of Affairs and Elections. The results of this Chapter of Affairs and Elections are as follows: Current President, Sister Jane Herb, IHM, was willing and elected to a second 6 year term. The rest of those elected as part of the Leadership Council were: Sr. Pat McCluskey, continuing for a second term, and newly elected Sr. Margaret Chapman, Sr. Marianne Gaynor, and Sr. Ellen Rinke.
- The decision has been made to stabilize and preserve the old St. Mary’s Academy building. Solar panels and passive ventilation will be added to the structure as it is updated.

Vocations

- This Committee would like to initiate a **Holy Hour to pray for Priests & Vocations** on the second Thursday of each month. It would be held at a different Parish each month and Vocations Committee Members would be responsible for opening & closing the church and leading the Holy Hour. A long-term goal of this project would be for Parishes to take up the ongoing, year-around hosting of this Holy Hour with each Parish volunteering for a certain month. If this program is approved by the Priests of the Vicariate, it is hoped to begin in April.
- The Committee would also like to adapt a program first created by Divine Child Parish in Dearborn called **“Parishioners for Priests”**. It includes a Facebook page where a “Priest of the Day” is posted and we ask for prayers for him and all priests. The program also offers promotional cards, posters and printed material.
- Marilyn Laboe will be stepping down as Chair of this committee. She says after ten years, it is time to step back but will continue on as Committee Secretary.
- It is brought up that Fr. Giancarlo Ghezzi, the new Priest at Divine Grace (Carleton/Maybee), would make a wonderful addition to the Priest Profile project that is put together for each Vicariate Newsletter.

Hispanic Ministry

- Two new families have joined us through contacting the St. Mary Parish office.
- There are about 100-102 individuals consistently attending Spanish Mass and taking part in the many celebrations, activities, and gatherings coordinated for the Hispanic Community through this ministry.
- Jennifer will work more closely with Catholic Charities of SE Michigan, so that they will be more aware of the Vicariate Hispanic Ministry and all the help and services it provides for the Hispanic Community in Monroe County.

Hispanic Ministry (Continued)

- Many ideas are put forth on ways to help spread information about the Hispanic Ministry. Jennifer is already using a number of avenues to reach out to the Hispanic Community but is always open to new ideas. As Vicariate meeting minutes reach every Parish in this Vicariate, we ask that every Parish Office kindly keep Jennifer's name and phone number on hand to help those in need of this ministry's services:

Monroe Vicariate Hispanic Ministry
Jennifer Fleck, Coordinator
(734) 241-1644 + extension 1310
Spanish Mass – Sunday at 2:00 pm

- There has been some difficulty in having a Spanish speaking Priest to celebrate Mass. It is put forward that Fr. Giancarlo at Divine Grace speaks Spanish and may be able to help.
- The Hispanic Mass is in need of a Music Minister as well. It is thought that, perhaps, the Music Minister at St. Joseph, Erie might be interested in helping. Jennifer will contact him.
- Jennifer will be getting more involved in the Jail Ministry at the detention center. .
- A new agreement has been reached in regards to the Hispanic Ministry Offertory Collection. Going forward this collection will be split equally between the expenses of St. Mary Parish (including diocesan assessments) and the salary of the Hispanic Ministry Coordinator.

Jail Ministry

The jail ministry is doing well. Many more men and women are coming to Services. During the Advent & Christmas Season, Deacon Mike Hammond distributed about 100 Matthew Kelley books to inmates and guards.

Evangelization

Currently, the Vicariate Committee for Evangelization & Catechesis is in the process of re-structuring and re-envisioning itself. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 23rd, 2018 at St. Joseph (Erie) in the Rectory at 7:00 pm. If there are any new members from your Parish, please have them join us on Tuesday evening.

Peace & Justice

- This Committee is still in need of members from many Parishes.
- The Committee continues to pursue the question of, "Are we being just to the disabled?" Our areas of focus are: Are buildings accessible?; Are we being welcoming?; Is the language used when interacting with disabled persons appropriate and does it/do we treat disabled persons with dignity?
- The Committee is also interested in looking at how the needs of disabled or border-line disabled children are being tended to at Catholic Schools or during Religious Education.
- The Committee has put together a checklist/questionnaire for Parishes to review to look at how accessible and welcoming their Parish is for the disabled.
- At the Vicar's request, a copy of the questionnaire will be sent to him.

On the Heroin/Opioid Epidemic: Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan are working on the problem. An engagement center which would be able to address the immediate needs of those with a wide-range of addictions, especially opioids and alcohol, is being considered. This Engagement Center could also provide the addicted a place to stay overnight while the services they are in need of are arranged. The former Promedica Headquarters building, next to the current Promedica Hospital is being sought as a possible location. CCSEM is currently in need of the funds to purchase this building. (Wendy Klinski of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan is currently working on the Engagement Center Project (734) 240-3850 x 2001.)

Budget Discussion

- All Committees and Ministries are asked to begin putting together their budget needs for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. Budget forms are on the Vicariate Website (www.monroevicariate.com). Please try to break everything down into specific line items. Please have your completed 2018-2019 budget sheets into the VPC Treasurer, Fred Fedorowicz (fedorowicz@sbcglobal.net) **before** the February 21st, 2018 MVPC meeting to allow Fred time to put the budget together for discussion at that February 21st Meeting.
- Priests have approved the 2017-2018 Parish Assessments and all but one Parish have paid these assessments.

Budget Discussion (Continued)

- It is thought that all outstanding reimbursement requests have been paid to date except one. The lengthiness in time between when Committee members pay for items/events versus when they receive reimbursement for their expenses was discussed. It is hoped that recent changes will help the process be more efficient going forward. If anyone does have expenses/requests that have not yet been paid, please be sure to contact Fred immediately so he may follow-up on these items.
- Fred (MVPC Treasurer) will be sending out updates to all Committees and Ministries which give them a look at their budgeted amounts in comparison to how much they have spent to date.

Unleash the Gospel (Module 3: Guidepost 1 – The New Pentecost)

- This session opened with the reading of Acts 1:1-8 and prayer led by Fr. David Cybulski.

The following were discussed:

- What the Synod was and what it meant to us as the people of God.
- That Guideposts are markers along the road to help us on our way during this journey to *Unleash the Gospel* and renew the Faith in the Archdiocese and this Vicariate.
- Why we need a New Pentecost and what it means for us.
- How the Spirit speaks to each of us as Council Members, as Representatives, and in Ministry.
- How each of us experiences the Lord in prayer. (*Members shared their experiences with the group.*)
- How each of us must do what we are anointed and called to do. We must remember each of us was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King at our Baptism. How do we live out this anointing? How do we be what God calls us to be?
- **Acts 29.** We are living Acts 29. Thus, we need to repent and believe in the Gospel and we need to look for and expect signs and wonders in our time.
- ***In order to be the people God calls us to be and accomplish all that He asks of us, what must we do?***
We must believe in and use the Gospel as a way to run our daily lives and to interact with all those we meet. We are challenged to pull people together and stand up for what is right. We are all called to share our Catholic values. We must seek to evangelize and love others—reaching out to all in hopes of bringing them to Salvation through Jesus Christ--bridging all gaps, loving and caring for all people.
- How we may build bridges as Paul did in seeking a way to bring the Gentiles into the fold of Believers and build vibrant Christian Communities.

The meeting was ended with prayer and blessing by Fr. Cybulski.

(Minutes respectfully submitted by L. Kuhlman, MVPC Secretary)