

## **MINUTES: SUMMIT DISTRICT FEBRUARY 4, 2008 MEETING**

Ss. Peter and Paul, Doylestown hosted the February 4 meeting. Summit North was represented by 15 members from 8 of 13 parishes and Summit South by 25 members from 13 of 20 parishes. 6 representatives from 5 organizations/institutions and 1 guest were also in attendance for a total of 47 people. After lunch, Melissa Keegan, who chaired the meeting, asked for prayer intentions. Fr. Rob Stein, pastor, welcomed members and led the opening prayer. All members introduced themselves. The November 2007 minutes had been distributed and were approved. It was noted the Julie Johnson was ill today and not able to attend.

### **Announcements**

- Karen Leith, Catholic Commission of Summit County, reported on the following: Faithful Citizenship, Making a Real Difference for Children Locally, Earned Income Tax Credit, Sowers of Justice (Holy Family and St. Matthew), Payday Lending. Handouts on these were available on the information table.
- Karen Bellett, St. Augustine, Barberton, noted that Tom Allio will speak March 13<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 pm at St. Augustine School Cafeteria on the topic "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship."
- Joan Skalak, Holy Family and Catholic Senior Adult Ministry announced their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual District Retreat for Older Adults on April 9<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family; retreat director will be Fr. Joseph Mamich.
- Fr. Frank Basa, Christ the King, reminded the clergy of this year's clergy night at the Knights of Columbus South Akron Council on May 21. He also reminded parishes of the availability of honor guards for the bishops and made request forms available on the information table.
- Fr. David Durkee, Queen of Heaven, announced that their perpetual adoration chapel will be dedicated by Bishop Gries on February 10, 2008; the stained glass windows are from Holy Family Church, Cleveland.
- Deacon Dennis Smith, Nativity, reported on their Lenten Mission, February 25, 26, 27, 2008. Dr. Michel Therrien will present of "The Landscape of the Soul." Flyers were made available on the information table.
- Maureen Capellas from CYO announced that Search #169 will be February 22-24, 2008.
- Sr. Mercia, St. Martha, invited all to the Open House for and Blessing of the new St. Martha Manor, March 30, 1-4pm.
- Don Finn, CYO, reported on their Adult Day Care Services and mentioned their need for people to lead prayer services on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.

**Diocesan Chair Report:** Linda Herold reported that copies of the minutes of the last Diocesan District Chair meeting (December 5, 2007) were available at the information table. She gave a brief review of the major items.

**Presbyteral Council Report:** Fr. Joe Mamich (North) and Fr. Dave Durkee (South) are the Presbyteral Conveners for our respective districts. Fr. Mamich noted that there were no council meetings held in December or January. John Maimone, Chief Financial Officer for the Diocese gave a presentation on the Diocesan budget at the Summit County Priests Meeting in January. Also at that meeting, a discussion regarding the retirement of Fr. Berardi, Catholic Chaplain for Akron City Hospital and possible scenarios and solutions was held. At our district meeting, Fr. Mamich introduced Ellen Barber who will be working part-time between now and June 2008 to coordinate Catholic chaplain services for Summa Hospitals (St. Thomas, Akron City, and Cuyahoga Falls General). There was discussion about the difficulties, because of cut-backs at of Catholic Charities, for funding for this position and the suggestion was made that local parish financial support may be needed in the future.

### **District Initiatives:**

- Carolyn Humston of St. Sebastian, updated members on Jacob's Well and Caring & Sharing for the Divorced and Separated.
- Tom Weigand, Come and See Team, gave a financial report on the "Come and See" district initiative, shared some stories to illustrate how this ministry is making a difference and reported on recent publicity efforts.

### **Guest Speaker – Kathy Haag, Associate Director, Pastoral Ministry Office**

Kathy Haag, Associate Director of the Pastoral Ministry Office located at the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe, gave a presentation on the Diocesan Certification Process for Lay Ecclesial Ministers. Those applying for admittance must undergo psychological testing, write a Faith Life Vision Statement, gather five references, a letter of support from their spouse (if married) and participate in an Entrance Interview by board members. Names are then submitted to Bishop Lennon for approval into the process. The program includes 4 major components: Formation and Integration (3 years of formation, an annual retreat, on-going spiritual direction and annual goal-setting meetings), Academic preparation (14 courses in areas such as Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology and Pastoral Theology, and 2 Electives), Mentoring (120 hours), and 2 Supervised Field Experience Projects. The program focuses on 4 areas of development: human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral. After all requirements are met, candidates must undergo an exit interview and again names are submitted to Bishop Lennon for certification. Going into the process, there are no guarantees of certification or of job placement. Currently, there are 40 candidates in the 3 year program and 30 advanced

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candidates. There are approximately 360 certified in the diocese. Don Finn wondered if there was a process to help parishes identify possible candidates and help educate volunteers. It was reported that the Lake/Geauga District has a 3-part program in April for staff members, not in ministry, to help them better answer phone calls and questions; help put a pastoral approach on all staff responsibilities. Melissa will look into this and report back.

### **Vibrant Parish Life II Clustering Discussion:**

Melissa Keegan took questions and encouraged clusters to engage in scenario planning - to think about all possible scenarios for their cluster before making any final decisions.

### **District Discussions:**

- District Retreat will be February 25<sup>th</sup> at Loyola of the Lakes Jesuit Retreat House. Our day will be led by Christina Ronzio, Diocesan Director, Office for Worship.
- Bulletin Announcements-continue to send these to Julie Johnson at the Akron Catholic Center so they may be formatted uniformly and sent out to all parishes.
- Holy Oils, blessed at this year's Chrism Mass, will be available at the Akron Catholic Center for nursing homes, specialized ministry situations, emergencies, etc. The Office is not supplying oils for all parishes in the districts. All parishes are urged to attend the Chrism Mass and obtain their own oil.
- Communal Penance Services-schedules were collected for Julie Johnson to compile.

### **Open Forum:**

- Volunteers for next year's Retreat Committee will be recruited at the May 2008 meeting to give the team more time to prepare as volunteers have been scarce the last several years.
- The topic for the next district meeting on May 5 will be "Bullying in our Schools and Neighborhoods." Members were encouraged to invite principals and youth ministers to this meeting.

Thanks were given to Fr. Stein and his staff for hosting today's luncheon and meeting. Fr. Stein led the closing prayer.

**Next District Meeting: May 5, 2008 at Mother of Sorrows, Peninsula with lunch beginning at 12:00 noon.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Herold, North Summit Chair  
Melissa Keegan, Summit South Chair