

## **MINUTES: SUMMIT DISTRICT MAY 5, 2008 MEETING**

Mother of Sorrows Parish, Peninsula, graciously hosted 54 members and guests. Summit North was represented by 20 people from 10 of 13 parishes, Summit South by 25 people from 13 of 20 parishes, 6 people from 5 Institutions/Offices and 3 guests. Linda Herold, Summit North, chaired the meeting. Following the luncheon, Linda thanked Mother of Sorrows for hosting the meeting and luncheon, welcomed members and invited all in attendance to introduce themselves. After prayer intentions were voiced, Fr. John Terzano, pastor of Mother of Sorrows, led the opening prayer. Fr. John also announced that Julie Johnson, Akron Chancery Office, had completed her studies and was graduating from Walsh University with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management. The February 2008 minutes were presented and approved.

### **Announcements**

- Karen Leith, Catholic Commission of Summit County, reported on the following: Faithful Citizenship, Payday Lending, and a workshop on Child Trafficking. Handouts on these were available on the information table.
- Elaine Fechko, St. Sebastian, reminded members that the new Prepare and Enrich program of the Office of Marriage and Family, will be having training for couples at St. Sebastian Parish in September.
- Deacon Will Yoho, Immaculate Heart of Mary, distributed free copies of the book, Rediscovering Catholicism, by Matthew Kelly. He noted that it gives a simple, but powerful message and said free copies may be obtained from the Matthew Kelly Foundation.
- Melissa Keegan, Immaculate Conception, shared that three men from Summit County will be ordained to the priesthood: Jared Orndorff from Immaculate Conception, Steve Flynn from St. Mary, Hudson, and Mike McCandless from Holy Family, Stow.
- Fr. David Durkee, Queen of Heaven, announced that he and several other priests went on a week retreat to El Salvador and found Fr. Paul Schindler very joyful and happy; also, there will be a Marian Devotion on Thursday Night at Queen of Heaven.
- Julie Johnson, Akron Chancery Office, noted that the Red Mass will be at St. Bernard's on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon.
- Don Finn, Akron CYO and Community Services wanted to inform members that there is discussion of a possible merger between CYO and Catholic Social Services of Summit County. If the merger happens by 2009, it will mean more money for services rather than administration.

**Diocesan Chair Report:** Melissa Keegan, South Summit Chair, reported that copies of the minutes of the last Diocesan District Chair meeting (April 2, 2008) were available at the information table. She gave a brief review of the major items (Bob Tayek's presentation on the Diocesan Report to the Community, Vibrant Parish Life, Generations of Faith).

**Presbyteral Council Report:** Fr. Joe Mamich (North) and Fr. Dave Durkee (South) are the Presbyteral Conveners for our respective districts. Fr. Mamich noted the following topics of discussion: Term limits for pastors, diocesan priest's retirement and pension plan; the policy of naming parish buildings/halls, rooms after people and the problems that the Cleveland St. Vincent de Paul Society is having with the national office.

### **District Initiatives:**

- Carolyn Humston of St. Sebastian, updated members on Jacob's Well and Caring & Sharing for the Divorced and Separated. The next 6 week session for Jacob's Well will be in August or September.
- Pat Flaherty, Come and See Team, said their 2008-2009 schedule will be available after June 1 on the Summit District website. They will be looking at new and creative ways to get the word out: have two of the sessions at a Church other than St. Martha; try to tape the sessions to get wider distribution.

### **Guest Speakers – Susan Tucker and Beth Cardina on the “No Bullies, No Victims” Program**

Susan Tucker, Summit County Domestic Relations Court Community Outreach Director gave a presentation on the “No Bullies, No Victims” Program that she presents in schools and churches. She was assisted by Beth Cardina, Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian Ad Litem Coordinator Summit County Juvenile Court. Information presented to the districts included: bullies, language concerns, cyber-bullying, the change in juvenile laws, parental denial and apathy and more. The presentation was very well received by all; from the look on people's faces, we are clueless as to what is going on with our children. Sessions with children, teachers and parents are normally one hour. They prefer to do separate programs for each grade with no more than 100 children at once. They may be reached at 330-643-2359.

### **Mission and Ethics for Catholic Charities**

Pat Ritacco, Director, Mission and Ethics for Catholic Charities indicated that she is available to answer questions or offer group presentations on end of life issues. She may be reached at 216-939-7676.

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

Melissa Keegan reviewed some of the current key issues (parish consultation, addressing all the points on both pages of the cluster letters, etc.) and, along with Fr. Paul Rosing, took questions.

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### **District Discussions:**

- VIRTUS: Fr. Steve Brunovsky, St. Hilary, led a discussion on the need to coordinate Virtus training, fingerprinting, compliance, etc. in Summit County because of the growing cost, especially in larger parishes. Possible ideas included dedicating the September District Meeting to the topic, creating a form to see who is responsible in the parish, need for cooperation, hiring a regional coordinator, etc. Compliance is June 30 with absolute compliance by June 30, 2009.
- Future District Retreats: discussion indicated a desire for continuing the yearly retreat and perhaps inviting members from the Ashland, Wayne, Medina District. Volunteers to help plan are encouraged to come forward and ideas for speakers were also welcomed.
- Hospital Ministry: going well.
- Triduum Ad-Akron Beacon Journal: members were happy with what was done this year; 20 parishes participated and it was all paid for.

### **Open Forum:**

- Because of time, there were no discussions under Open Forum.

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

### **2008 District Meeting schedule: September 8, 2008 at St. Hilary, Fairlawn with lunch beginning at 12:00 noon.**

Meetings scheduled for the remainder of the 2008-2009 period include November 3, 2008 (Mass for the deceased) at Guardian Angels; February 2, 2009 at Our Lady of Victory, Tallmadge; Retreat on March 2, 2009 at Loyola of the Lakes Retreat House; and May 4, 2009 at St. Martha, Akron.

Respectfully submitted,

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