

MINUTES: SUMMIT DISTRICT NOVEMBER 5, 2007 MEETING

St. Martha, Akron hosted the November 5, 2007 meeting. Summit North was represented by 18 members from 8 of 13 parishes and Summit South by 29 members from 13 of 20 parishes. 9 representatives from 8 institutions/organizations and a guest were also in attendance for a total of 57 people. A prayer service was led by Fr. Mike Matusz, pastor, St. Martha, during which the deceased priests, deacons, religious and lay ministers of the diocese were prayerfully remembered. After lunch, Linda Herold, who chaired the meeting, asked for prayer intentions; Fr. Mike welcomed members and led opening prayer. All members introduced themselves. The September 2007 minutes were approved.

Announcements:

- Cards to be sent to Bishop Amos on his anniversary of appointment and birthday were circulated for signatures.
- Fr. Michael B. Smith, Immaculate Conception, noted that 3 of the 5 men ordained transitional deacons were from Summit County; one was from his parish.
- Karen Leith, Catholic Commission, made note of their Annual Dinner on December 7th and informed us about the new USCCB Faithful Citizenship booklet that will be available before the elections in November.
- Deacon Dennis Smith, Nativity, reported they are looking for a part-time choir accompanist.
- Fr. Mike Matusz invited all to tour the new Senior Housing site at St. Martha's after the meeting

Diocesan Chair Report: Linda Herold reported that copies of the October 3, 2007 Diocesan District Chair meeting were available at the information table which held important information about VIRTUS and VPL.

Presbyteral Council Report: Fr. Mamich (North) gave a report on the October meeting: After discussion with and research by the Marriage and Family Office, it has been recommended to phase out the current CDEM and replace it within the next few years with Prepare and Enrich which has many features more in tune with the issues of today. Training sessions will be offered.

District Initiatives:

- Carolyn Humston, St. Sebastian, gave an update on Jacob's Well and Caring & Sharing for the Divorced & Separated.
- Pat Flaherty gave a report on "Come and See," invited non-member churches to participate and made brochures available. Discussion was held about ways to better connect with people not in the pews and information about improved publicity was given.
- Fr. Paul Rosing of Holy Family/St. John the Baptist brought up the idea of standardizing bulletin announcements to make it easier on secretaries and bulletin editors. Julie Johnson of the Akron Chancery Office offered to be of assistance in this matter.

Guest Speaker – Carol Petro, Diocesan Marriage and Family Office

Carol Petro, from the staff of the Diocesan Marriage and Family Office, gave a presentation on the relatively new, but important area of family ministry. Carol highlighted the many resources available at their office for parishes. Deacon Bob Bender, Nativity, a mental health professional, offered his assistance to parish staffs who have questions about mental health issues, domestic violence, etc. A lively discussion on the preparation time for marriage was also held. Carol distributed a sign up sheet to begin a Marriage and Family Office Committee to focus on Summit County issues.

Vibrant Parish Life II Clustering Discussion:

Melissa Keegan and Fr. Paul Rosing encouraged members to follow the timeline and outline given them for their clusters, took questions, emphasized the need for prayer and sensitivity and reminded all to send their cluster reports to their delegates.

District Discussions:

- Agenda Committee: volunteers were invited to join.
- Retreat Committee: volunteers were requested to help plan the February 25, 2008 retreat at Loyola of the Lakes.
- Ideas/topics for future District Meetings were requested.

Open Forum:

- Fr. Matusz opened discussion about who to contact about the coordination of Eucharistic Ministers at hospitals.
- Fr. Durkee offered to gather times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for all parishes in Summit County. He also noted an initiative by a committee of priests to promote the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A paper was distributed on which parishes could record their information. Julie Johnson will compile and distribute.

Fr. Matusz and his staff were thanked for hosting today's luncheon and meeting. He then led the closing prayer.

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Next District Meeting: February 4, 2008 at SS Peter and Paul, Doylestown.

Meetings scheduled for the remainder of the 2008 year include:

February 25, 2008 at Loyola of the Lakes, Clinton (District Retreat)

May 5, 2008 at Mother of Sorrows, Peninsula

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Herold, North Summit Chair

Melissa Keegan, Summit South Chair