

MINUTES: SUMMIT DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 MEETING

St. Paul, Akron hosted the September 10th meeting, chaired by Melissa Keegan, Summit South District Chair. Summit North was represented by 20 people from 10 parishes, with 10 of 13 parishes represented and Summit South by 31 people from 16 parishes, with 16 of 20 parishes represented. There were also 6 people present from 5 institutions/ offices and a guest speaker for a total of 58 people. Following the luncheon, St. Paul was thanked for hosting the meeting and luncheon; members were welcomed, introductions were made, prayer requests were offered and then Fr. Ralph Thomas, pastor, St. Paul led the opening prayer with the theme "Bearing Witness to Peace". The May 2007 minutes had been distributed and were approved.

Announcements

- Melissa Keegan made note of the handouts on the information table especially the possibility of members using the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, PA
- Larry Lauter, member of the MLT Outreach to the Needy, noted an updated version (easier to navigate and with zip codes for parishes) of the Summit County Resource Directory for the Needy on the Summit District Web Page.
- Fr. Paul Schindler of St. Bernard's, noted that the NCCW is alive and well; also there would be a civic remembrance for September 11th at St. Bernard on 9/11/07 from 12 to 1:00pm
- Karen Leith, Catholic Commission of Summit County, distributed flyers on the following: Payday Lending and Reducing Gun Violence, a workshop on Immigration, a rally in Columbus, OH against the death penalty, and noted the continuing 40 Days of Prayer for Peace and Justice which concludes on October 4th with a Mass with Bishop Lennon.
- Terry Nesline, Pastoral Minister at St. Paul, noted a Woman's Gathering at St. Paul, September 21/22.
- Br. Ken Haders of Hoban High School, reported on his upcoming attendance at the beatification of Fr. Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross in LeMans, France, September 15.
- Diane Hardick, Pastoral Associate at Our Lady of Victory, presented a flyer for their parish's Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization - Faith and Living Series.
- Ada Honeck, DRE at Nativity, announced that the parish would be hosting a program sponsored by the Marriage and Family Office called Emotionally Intelligent Parents with Kim Langley and invited people to become part of a committee to plan this. She also reported that Nativity would be offering the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.
- Fr. Durkee, Queen of Heaven, reported that Bishop Roger Gries would be coming to the parish September 23rd Vocation Breakfast, 9:30 am, at Queen of Heaven. The cost is \$2.50.

Akron Chancery Office: Julie Johnson reminded people wanted to get on the district e-mail list to let her know at: jjohnson@dioceseofcleveland.org. She encouraged parishes to send her items for the Summit District Web site and read a message from Bishop Amos who noted he was doing well.

Diocesan Chair Report: Melissa Keegan reported that copies of the minutes of the last Diocesan District Chair meeting (June 6, 2007) were available at the information table.

Presbyteral Council Report: Fr. Dave Durkee (South) and Fr. Joe Mamich (North) are the Presbyteral Conveners. Fr. Durkee gave the following report about the discussion at the last meeting: The CDEM Test is being discussed with the Marriage and Family Office, and may be replaced with "Prepare and Enrich;" The Office for Catholic Education explained their fee increase from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per student in 2006; also noted were the recent appointments of Fr. Joseph Hilinski as the new director of the Continuing Education and Formation of Ministers Office and Ms. Christina Ronzio of London, Ontario as the new director of the Office for Worship (formerly Office for Pastoral Liturgy). Frs. Durkee and Mamich then took questions.

District Initiatives:

- Carolyn Humston of St. Sebastian, updated members on Jacob's Well and Caring & Sharing for the Divorced and Separated; she also noted the Sacred Spaces retreat at St. Sebastian on October 13 with Frank O'Connell and the upcoming CYO Search Weekend.
- Melissa Keegan, gave a report on "Come and See" about what has been happening along with an invitation for other parishes to join their effort and to publicize the program; new brochures were available.

Guest Speaker – Tim Lance, Director of the SVDP Fr. John Hilker Ozanam Center at Annunciation Church:

Tim Lance, President of the Akron area St. Vincent de Paul Society (which includes 30 parish groups in Summit, Medina, Wayne, and Ashland Counties), gave a presentation on the background and development of the new center which opened in August and highlighted the services (e.g. food, clothing, furniture, etc.) being provided. An informational flyer was also distributed. Tim noted that at present they are unable to provide financial services for utilities and hoped that the

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local parish SVDP groups could help. Pat McGrath of Catholic Social Services noted that they have a program that helps people with some rent and utility help. They are working with the Knights of Columbus to pick up items being donated. Contributions and volunteers are welcome and there is a need for baby and children's clothing and furniture.

Vibrant Parish Life II Clustering Discussion:

Melissa Keegan and Fr. Paul Rosing presented the latest on Vibrant Parish Life Clustering and took questions. They noted that by the end of September reports from the clusters need to be sent to their delegates who will present them to Bishop Lennon. The question came up about alternates to the cluster teams and it was made clear that there were to be 5 and only 5 members on each parish team – alternates change the dynamics of the group and affect the continuity of the group and the work. This point will be brought to the VPL Task Force Meeting on September 11, 2007

District Discussions:

- o Agenda Committee: volunteers were invited to join.
- o Retreat Committee: volunteers were requested to help plan next year's retreat on March 3, 2008 at Loyola of the Lakes.
- o Ideas/Topics for future District Meetings were requested. Some other Districts had programs on immigration.
- o Discussion was held regarding the luncheon and the cost of hosting a district meeting. There was strong feedback that the luncheon helped to promote fellowship among members before the meetings. It was decided that hosting parishes would put out a basket for donations to help defray the cost.

Open Forum:

- o Fr. Rosing asked whether a PDF file could be set up for Immigration information
- o Fr. Durkee reported that a generous donor had given money to Queen of Heaven for an Adoration Chapel
- o Fr. Terzano reported that Mother of Sorrows would be celebrating their 125th anniversary

Thanks were given to Father Ralph Thomas of St. Paul and his staff for hosting today's luncheon and meeting. Deacon Frank Lonteen of St. Paul led the closing prayer.

Next District Meeting: November 5, 2007 at St. Martha, Akron; prayer service at 11:30 am (there was a switch because of concerns with space at Mother of Sorrows for the audio visual presentation of the Marriage & Family Office on Strengthening Marriages)

Meetings scheduled for the remainder of the 2007-2008 year include:
February 4, 2008 at SS. Peter and Paul, Doylestown
March 3, 1008 at Loyola of the Lakes, Clinton (District Retreat)
May 5, 2008 at Mother of Sorrows, Peninsula

Respectfully submitted,

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