

MINUTES: SUMMIT DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 MEETING

St. Hilary Parish, Fairlawn, graciously hosted 51 members and guests. Summit North was represented by 22 people from 8 of 13 parishes, Summit South by 21 people from 11 of 20 parishes, 6 people from 5 Institutions/Offices and 2 guests. Melissa Keegan, Summit South, chaired the meeting. Following the luncheon, Melissa thanked St. Hilary for hosting the meeting and luncheon, welcomed members and invited all in attendance to introduce themselves. After prayer intentions were voiced, Fr. Steven Brunovsky, pastor of St. Hilary, led the opening prayer. Good news was shared among those present including news of vocations. The May 2008 minutes were presented and approved.

Announcements

- Karen Leith, Catholic Commission of Summit County, reported on the following: Faithful Citizenship, Parish Justice Network meeting on Education, Health Care Forum, and Tents for Darfur. 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.
- Terry Nesline, Pastoral Minister at St. Paul, noted a Woman's Retreat at St. Paul, October 3 and 4.
- Diane Hardick, Our Lady of Victory, and Julie Johnson, Akron Chancery Office, reported on the Marriage/Family Continuum of Care Committee. The group will be creating a resource directory and requested that anyone with a program oriented toward families please submit it to them by September 30.

Akron Chancery Office: Julie Johnson shared a note she had received from Bishop Martin Amos. She also reminded members that she is at the Cleveland Chancery Office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and at the Akron Chancery Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Diocesan Chair Report: Linda Herold, North Summit Chair, reported that copies of the minutes of the last Diocesan District Chair meeting (June 4, 2008) were available at the information table. She gave a brief review of the major items (Extraordinary Ministers Training-Spring 2009 and Vibrant Parish Life).

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 during the 3 meetings that have taken place since our last District Meeting in May: term limits for pastors, the role of the Presbyteral Council in the cluster process, and that the Diocese is grateful for parishes that send in their assessments. Father Joe stated that this is a difficult financial time for the Diocese, especially with the cost incurred due to parish closings. A question was raised regarding whether a parish's determined assessments were going to change when that particular parish does not have a school but financially supports their parishioners at another parish's school. Father Joe and Father Dave will bring this up at the next meeting.

Loyola of the Lakes Retreat House: Becky Haller gave an update on the status of the Retreat House now that the Detroit Jesuit Province has withdrawn sponsorship because of staffing needs elsewhere. Financially they are in good shape for the present. Bishop Lennon has agreed to sponsor the retreat house until October. The Board is in discussion with the Detroit Jesuit Province regarding the property and are committed to continuing their programs.

District Initiatives:

- Carolyn Humston of Holy Family, updated members on Jacob's Well and Caring & Sharing for the Divorced and Separated. She also announced a presentation regarding Domestic Court and Grandparents' Rights. Brochures were available on the information table.
- Melissa Keegan, Come and See Team, reported that the program is going well and some of the sessions will be held at Holy Family, St. Hilary, and Annunciation. New Brochures were made available to the parishes.

Guest Speaker – Sharon Minson, Director, Protecting God's Children--Diocesan VIRTUS Program

Sharon Minson introduced herself as being from the Akron area and is a lawyer who has had experience in the areas of domestic violence, Catholic Charities in Youngstown, and presently the Director of Protecting God's Children for the Diocese of Cleveland. Sharon reviewed the Virtus program and their hopes for the future. She took many questions and will see what might be possible on many suggestions for the program that were offered. Don Finn, CYO, noted that the CYO can do a BCII fingerprint check for \$25.00 and an FBI check for \$45 but it is only by appointment; their phone is 330-762-2961.

Vibrant Parish Life II Clustering Discussion:

Melissa Keegan reviewed some of the current key issues (communication, deadlines, shorter is better if it gives a picture of what is happening, cluster plans will be reviewed in the future to measure what was written, etc.). Melissa will check about what will be happening to the Cluster Committee in the future.

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District Discussions:

- District Retreat Committee: volunteers were requested to help Father Tom Kowatch who already volunteered; members from the Ashland, Wayne, Medina District have been invited. It will be the first Monday in March and it counts as a District Meeting.
- Agenda Committee: members were invited to volunteer for this with the next meeting set for September 30.
- Ideas/topics for future District Meetings were requested.
- Julie Johnson reminded the priests that they should have received a diocesan e-mail address and that in the next couple of months most Diocesan correspondence will be sent to that e-mail address. Parishes have their own e-mail addresses which were noted in the Status Animarum mailing.

Open Forum:

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

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

2008 District Meeting schedule: 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