

Cluster 21 Pastoral Council

January 13, 2008, 2 – 4 p.m.

St. Peter's Parish Hall

Present: Peter Lancia, (chair), Dan Chuhta, Msgr. Paul Stefanko, Sr. Theresa Rand, Fr. Richard Bertrand, S.J., Ray Rier, Christine Thibeault, Chris Hoppin, Fr. Fred Morse, Pennie Kinney, Greg St. Angelo, Peter Gribbon, Fr. Kevin Martin, Lori Arsenault (communications).

Minutes:

1. Review and accepted the last meeting minutes

2. Disciples in Mission – Fr. Kevin

- Held one more introductory session at SHSDP since the last council meeting.
- Held an organizational meeting on December 15. Central initial order for materials placed from Cathedral, which should arrive in the next couple of days.
- People have been asked to sign up for small groups. Not all sign-up forms have been turned in. Thursday, four or five people will get together to assign people to small groups. Group leaders will be asked to contact their own group members once they have been assigned. Families have been given the opportunity to be involved.
- Small group leaders training was held 1/12/2008. Will schedule another before the beginning of Lent.
- Handout: sign-up form that is being used..
- The song written with the words of the Disciples' Prayer has been sung for a two weeks at Sacred Heart / St. Dominic Parish, and should be ready to be distributed.
- Cluster pastoral council members should speak to their parish councils promoting Disciples in Mission and evangelization.
- A parish-wide or cluster-wide reflection day will be planned for the summer. Later in the summer or early fall, planning will begin for the next year
- Cathedral School is doing Disciples in Mission in the classroom, and families are being encouraged to participate at home as well.

2. Structure and Mission – Peter Lancia

- Peter has talked to Bill Schulz about the mission and role of this council. Eventually our cluster will have a pastor named by the bishop. Along with that, parochial vicars will also be named, Diocesan and religious. A Pastoral Council and Finance Council will also be formed for the Cluster, with representatives from each parish. Descriptions of those councils are still being developed.
- Our mission is as a transitional council, moving toward establishing ourselves as a single cluster, not likely to happen right away. Think about our mission as the collaboration, community and unity of five churches. Future council would build upon the unity of the five churches established by current transitional council.
- Handouts were given out called "Cluster 21 Transitional Pastoral Council" and "Mission Statement." Discussion of the documents, clarification of the transitional nature of the council, possible timeline. These two documents will be dated for historical purposes. The drafts will be posted to the Web site as "proposed." Mission statement portion will be incorporated into the operational document, for consistency, but so that the mission statement can also stand alone.

3. Communications report

- Cluster bulletin editors have met to review the bulletins
- Decided on the transitional graphic as it is. It was changed with suggestions from several individuals to what is currently on the Web site.
- The group has discussed several bulletin cover ideas, and the idea of combining. Currently, each parish is publishing cluster news in their own way.
- Advertising on a joint bulletin cover would have to be addressed by a finance council, and is beyond the scope of the communications committee, though it was considered that *transitionally*, the advertising page could be the insert rather than a part of the cover.
- Communication sharing between parishes is beginning through this bulletin editors group on a weekly basis using the Web site as the central repository for cluster news.
- Parish representatives should talk about the cluster in each of their parishes.

4. Needs assessment

- Needs assessment document was reviewed, and Peter asked for some brainstorming identifying priority needs. Fr. Fred mentioned the need at St. Christopher more opportunities for baptism, RCIA and marriage prep opportunities. Msgr. Stefanko mentioned wanting to develop a second team for Cathedral's successful UNITAS program.
- Evangelization - Catholics can always come home, welcome forms for Christmas and Easter, calling people who do not show up for a while. Which parishes are doing these things? Members expressed concerns about clustering that we won't be parishes any more, but just worship stations. The challenge as a cluster is to foster and facilitate the strength of each worship community. As a cluster we need to coordinate with each other, and coordinate with neighboring clusters. Other churches are pro-active, and perhaps we should develop a plan to be more actively soliciting members.
- Careful consideration of planning Sunday mass is crucial for evangelization.
- Youth involvement and leadership is a large need in our cluster. Input and leadership. Youth ministry, leading from faith formation, campus ministry, Veritas, other initiatives.
- Discussion of "Parish Plan" – question about whether parishes have them, and the need to do them. Formal plans have not been requested for 15 years or so. Sr. Theresa has done them regularly. Should this be a need for the cluster? Should we pursue identifying goals?
- Lori will re-send the original planning spreadsheet to the group, and add the needs assessment document to it.

Action items:

- 1. Sign up for, and promote Disciples in Mission**
- 2. Distribute the song to parish music ministries, and use it each week starting now and through Lent.**
- 3. Rework structure and mission statement documents, and**
- 4. Post them as drafts to the Web site**
- 5. Distribute to the council the Cluster 21 comprehensive data spreadsheet that was compiled in 2005/2006, and add to it the needs assessment questions.**
- 6. Begin to identify themes from the needs assessment that will lead us to establish goals for the cluster at the next meeting.**

Next meeting, February 10, 2008, 2 – 4 p.m., Cathedral upper sacristy.

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Lori Arsenault