

Cluster 21 Pastoral Council

3 – 4:30 p.m., Sunday, June 22, 2008
St. Christopher's Parish, Peaks Island

Present: Peter Lancia, Fr. Fred Morse, Peter Donnelly, Msgr. Paul Stefanko, Peter Gribbin, Greg St. Angelo, Sr. Theresa Rand, Fr. Richard Bertrand, Ray Rier, Lori Arsenault (admin)

1. Minutes of 5/18/08 accepted

2. Council for 2008/2009 - Members who do not want to continue into next year should let their pastor know right away. Otherwise, those remaining will continue for the next year and begin cycling off next spring, as they have served their three-year terms.

3. Cluster Reflection Day, June 14th – Msgr. Paul reported on behalf of Fr. Kevin that feedback is coming in from the people who attended the reflection day. It is being compiled into a report that will contain observations and recommendations that the council will be able to make use of it right away, and some as future objectives. Some of the notes received will be sent electronically to all Cluster 21 council members now, and then when Fr. Kevin has his full report compiled, that will also be sent around.

4. Newsletter and Communication

- The Newsletter will continue to be published weekly through the summer, and will likely continue to change to meet the needs of the Cluster. Others can submit “newsy” kinds of things so that people are seeing more of the good things that are happening in the parish. Each Newsletter is copied to Harvest Magazine as well as to each parish bulletin editor.
- Discussion of having a single bulletin for the cluster, or a common bulletin cover, etc. Currently, the parishes prefer to have the Cluster Newsletter as an insert, with the cover being individual to the parish. This will likely change only as the Cluster itself changes. Several options were discussed.
- Discussion of peer groups from each parish collaborating (such as all the coordinators of a particular ministry), and the need for council members and clergy to be aware of all of these meetings for continuity and continued development of the Cluster. Discussed a protocol to get parish leaders in the habit of running things through a central Cluster “point of contact,” not for permission or regulation, but for good communication back and forth around the Cluster, copying Peter or Lori who will inform the council..
- (Post meeting, Lori now has a record started of such meetings and activities, beginning with the bulletin editors' collaboration that is currently underway and working well).

5. Committee work, recap of last meeting

- **Business:** To hire a business manager by June of 09; school funding formula; protocol for consolidation; staffing assessment.
- **Evangelization & Catechesis:** Common marriage prep program; common baptism prep program; common youth ministry.

At this time, the group split into these two committees

6. Business Subcommittee Discussion and Goals

Msgr. Paul, Fr. Bertrand, Fr. Fred, Peter Gribbin, Greg St. Angelo, Lori Arsenault

- Staffing Assessment – Teresa Schulz has begun setting appointments for the staffing assessment that will be taking place over the next several weeks or months.
- School Funding Formula –
 - Discussion of sending kids to in-cluster or out-of-cluster schools and how that works.
 - Considered the possibility of cooperating with the other schools in funding to avoid competition, which may result in an informal agreement with them. Need to try to get a handle on what children are going where, to get an overall sense of the real implications of the current formula cluster-wide that will affect every parish.
 - Together as a unified body, approach the Superintendent with a solid proposal
 - Msgr. Paul will determine who will need to meet to look at what can be done.
 - Address the problem of competition among Catholic schools
 - Use the Newsletter for a promotional Series about Cathedral School and Catholic education, promoting the school among parishioners as our cluster school.
 - Establish a well-coordinated second collection in our parishes for Cathedral School that will help alleviate the cost of Catholic education for the children of our parishes.
 - Energy challenges – what can we start doing collaboratively right away to make the best use of our heated spaces this winter? Council members should be thinking about that, and come to the September meeting with concrete suggestions.

7. Evangelization & Catechesis Discussion and Goals –

Peter Lancia, Ray Rier, Sr. Theresa Rand.

- Marriage Preparation Program – Cathedral is adding a second Unitas program to be made available to our whole cluster, but also invite other clusters to come. It's a seven-week series. Between Cathedral and St. Peter, there are 69 weddings coming up, and they will all need prep. First session starts September 14. Based on the RCIA model. Does not take away from the meeting with the Pastor and

- making the arrangements for the ceremony, but is a more in-depth preparation that is very well received by the couples who participate.
- Start a grass roots effort to create a new youth ministry, organizing a conversation with religious education directors and someone from Chancery...determine what kind of program the Cluster should have. Will involve Fr. Kevin.
 - Baptism Preparation – wants to see if a program exists like RCIA, research and development of such a program.
 - Morning or Evening prayer before Daily Masses at the parishes.
 - Coordinating a Cluster Retreat Day inviting all the members of the individual parish councils. Possible retreat in the Fall, ready to organize in September, possibly for an October date. Peter will draft an invitation letter.

8. Annual Report – in the next few weeks Peter will write a draft of an annual report for the council to review for publication to all Cluster 21 parishioners.

Summary of actions to take:

1. Ask staff and parish leaders to inform the Cluster 21 Pastoral Council (through Lori or Peter) of any cluster collaborations so they can become a part of the cluster record, and make it possible to keep the council informed.
2. Msgr. Paul will identify the persons that should meet to consider various school funding proposals.
3. Lori will gather data, news and stories (with help from many others) about Cathedral School for Newsletter articles, and about other things to spotlight in the Newsletter.
4. Peter will write a draft annual report and canvas parish council chairs about a fall retreat with the Cluster council.

Many thanks from all council members to Fr. Fred and St. Christopher Parishioners for providing lunch.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.
Submitted by Lori Arsenault