

**ePORTLAND PENINSULA & ISLAND PARISHES COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2010 6:30PM
GUILD HALL PASTORAL CENTER
307 CONGRESS STREET
PORTLAND, MAINE**

In attendance:

Father Louis Phillips
Father Kevin Martin
Father Mike Seavey
Father Richard Bertrand
Kenneth Giaquinto
Grace Tucci Libby
Michele Bernier
Mary Duffy
Pat Wallace
Paula Broydick
Penny Kinney
Peter Donnelly
Peter Gribbin
Tony Decker
Vickey Saniuk

Absent:

Peter Lancia
Chris Hoppin
Dennis La Freniere

Guests:

Susan Violet, Executive Director Wayside Soup
Kitchen and Food Rescue
Mary Beth Canning
Jim Carson

Wayside Soup Kitchen and Food Rescue: Presentation and Discussion by Susan Violet Executive Director

Ms Violet gave an excellent presentation which was summarized in a handout she distributed to attendees. Her presentation was well received and an energetic discussion followed in ways that the various parish churches could participate in the supplemental community meal program. The renovations in St. Peter's Parish Hall were commended as a model for the rest of the cluster. Fr Lou stated that the Cathedral School could use the space in Guild Hall which is presently used by the St Vincent Paul Soup Kitchen.

Proposal and Discussion of request for speaking engagement : Ivan Dragicevic Marion Apparitions in Medjugorje

Proposal and background documents regarding Ivan Dragicevic were presented by Jim Carson and Mary Beth Canning who were requesting that Mr Dragicevic be invited to our cluster. An explanation of how Mr Dragoicevic requests the evening be structured was presented : Mass, Rosary and Apparition Appearance at 6:45pm. Hesitation in approving Mr Dragoicevic's visit was expressed by the clergy and laity in attendance for various reasons. A letter will be sent disapproving the request for a speaking engagement .

Pastoral Life and Faith Formation by Grace Tucci Libby

Grace Tucci Libby gave a comprehensive overview of pastoral life and faith formation in the cluster. This year, in its third and final year of Disciples in Mission during Lent, we have something to be thankful about. 14 groups and 150 participants, including 42 middle school children, are meeting and sharing in their faith with the Disciples in Mission program. The groups meet in locations all over the cluster on various days and times. Grace thanks everyone who is participating in the program. . A special thanks to our group leaders, without whom none of this would be possible. Please pray for your fellow parishioners as they partake on this spiritual journey through Lent.

Grace Tucci Libby gave a comprehensive explanation of our marriage preparatory program, UNITAS, is looking for prayer partners for the engaged couples entering into the vocation of Marriage this year. Prayer partners are individuals or couples who are willing to pray for a couple from the beginning of the program until their wedding day. This year we are going to ask prayer partners to write a short note to the couple telling them

about their promise to keep them in prayer and wishing them well. We will collect those notes and give them to the couples on the last night of the program (April 19th) Please contact Grace Tucci Libby at the Pastoral Center at 773-7746 if you are interested or need more information.

Grace Tucci Libby explained the various activities and events happening in the cluster with regards to Faith Formation to include a gathering for all cluster children involved in Faith Formation at St Louis Church on 27 February with 20 children expected to attend. Sacred Heart/Dominic representatives expressed a desire to have such a gathering at their church.

A new group is being formed to answer the call to care for our Environment

Catholics are being called forth by Pope Benedict XVI and the US Bishops to Care for Creation and Stop Global Climate Change. Help set up a cluster-wide program for early spring to identify how each one of us can actively answer this plea. The planning group will meet in mid-March. If interested in being a part of this process, please contact: Anne W. Johnson (SHSD)@ 929-3088.

Mrs. Tucci Libby gave a comprehensive review of the status of requested trainings for example Altar Servers, Minister of the Word, and Eucharistic Ministers. Trainings and retreats will be combined with a dinner for present, future and past Ministers.

There will be 55 to 60 children receiving sacraments on Mary 23rd and everyone is invited to attend.

Presentation and update of Cluster Bulletin by Michele Bernier

Michele Bernier explained that her approach to developing the cluster bulletin is a prayerful approach. Sample of other cluster bulletins were reviewed by attendees. A Sketch up of the proposed cluster bulletin was passed around the table for all to review and comment. The diversity of the individual parishes will be respected as well as unity within the cluster. Denis LaFreniere is handling ads. They are not the responsibility of parishes. We have two designated ad representatives and ads can be changed at any time. The ads will be placed inside the last two pages of the bulletin. A cluster parishioner is developing a logo. The biggest adjustment of parishes will be a firm deadline for the submission of announcements-most likely Tuesday. The cluster bulletin will be uploaded on the parish websites. The bulletin will also be offered in Spanish at Sacred Heart and Polish at St Louis Parish. Since the vendor does not provide translation services, these will need to come from the Parishes. Rollout of the cluster bulletin is anticipated for Easter.

Diocese of Portland Capital Campaign

Fr Lou stated that each remaining parish in the capital campaign has a local project and are on time. The capital campaign commitment period will be the end of April to early May. All is going well.

Parish and Parochial Vicar Update

Update to the Mass schedule and priest reduction

Triduum services and the role of the cluster parishes

The Sacred Heart representatives stated that they had heard that there was a decision to have all Triduum services at the Cathedral in 2011 and not any at the cluster parishes. A Triduum 2011 document was shared that confirmed this proposal. It was stated that this is good liturgical practice. The St Christopher representative stated that he was uncomfortable with the churches being empty during Holy Week.

The next Portland Peninsula and Island Parishes Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for March 16 at 6:30pm in the same location. Fr Lou announced that parking may be difficult to find due to other scheduled meetings.