



Genesis Vicariate Pastoral Council

TO SHARE CHRIST IN AND THROUGH THE URBAN CHURCH

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JUNE 27, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Genesis Vicariate Pastoral Council
"Together In Faith" Phase II Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

AGENDA:

1. **Opening Prayer - Group Assembly/ Group Discussion**
2. **Finalization of Recommendations For Questions 1-9**
3. **Meeting Wrap up**
4. **Document Download Links**

OPENING PRAYER - GROUP ASSEMBLY/GROUP DISCUSSION

The meeting opened with a prayer at 6:38 pm.

Our task is to complete the final recommendations, in consensus, as a planning group. There should not be a lot of discussion; the meeting should flow well as we have been reviewing this information for the last 6 months.

Mabel is the timekeeper, we can have no sidebars. There should be about 10 minutes discussion per question and the final recommendations will be sent to the group in "boxes" format.

FINALIZATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR QUESTIONS 1-9

Question 1: "Based on the reflections and dialogue, and parish activities now and proposed for the future, what are the most important aspects of the Church's presence within the planning group, and in the vicariate? In the region? What are the most exciting things? How can these activities continue and grow?"

Recommendation 1: Actively engage the community; evangelization; weekly food distribution programs; some young adult programs; some homebound ministry programs; St. Vincent DePaul programs. Supporting data: Parishes submitted information from the Parish Pastoral Planning Reflection Questions. Evangelization. We have outreach programs in all the parishes.

Recommendation 2: Meeting the sacramental, spiritual, and physical needs of all. To uphold the dignity of the vulnerable and embrace our multi-ethnicity. Supporting data: We have outreach programs in all of the parishes.

Recommendation 3: Have the AOD Office of Catechists and Black Catholic Ministry develop a diversified youth and young adult program. Supporting data: Lack of programs for youth, young adults and based on the demographic data.

Question 2: "What are some best practices that should be duplicated in other parts of the vicariate, region or archdiocese that are not occurring now? What can other parishes and vicariates learn from this planning group?"

Recommendation 1: Develop a brother/sister relationship with suburban parishes with the goal of partnering on projects and sharing of resources in support of each parish's mission. Supporting data: Demographics and parish-submitted data.

Recommendation 2: Sharing of youth ministry, Vacation Bible School and evangelization to increase attendance and volunteers. Supporting data: Parish-submitted data.

Recommendation 3: Increase youth participation at Mass by implementing "Youth Sunday" on a regular basis (ushers, altar servers, lectors, choir, etc.).

Question 3: "Review the final recommendations from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. How will the parishes improve on what they are already doing, in response to the APC plans, or how will these plans be implemented in the future? How are these plans supported by the data and the planning process to date? What resources will be needed, including people, time, talent and treasure?"

Recommendation 1:

A: Improve communication between all parishes such as aligning our parish bulletins, collaborative meetings, continued planning meetings.

B: Teach all aspects of Stewardship; have each parish create a stewardship committee.

C. Establish a parish and vicariate-level evangelization committee.

D. Implement and evaluate strategies.

E. Develop programs such as quarterly activities for youth at the vicariate level. Form a committee with youth representatives from each parish to formulate the needs and activities for youth under 18.

F. Identify and support parishioners as parish lay-leaders to take advantage of training such as at Sacred Heart Seminary.

Supporting data: Resource needed is parish leadership, participation in planning committees.

Question 4: "What recommendations can be made about future clusters, mergers, or different parishes' configurations? Which ones and when? How would that increase or grow the activities identified through the initial reflection process?"

Recommendation 1: No future clusters/mergers of any parish in the group.

Recommendation 2: Parishes must have a mandatory contingency plan for clustering or merging. Whoever is not currently clustered or merged must have a contingency plan to cluster or merge.

Recommendation 3: Mandatory plan to merge parishes in "North" and "South" groups.

Recommendation 4: Merge and sell large properties then build a new, energy-efficient parish.

Question 5: "Could parishes within the planning group combine financial and administrative activities to result in a merged parish with possibly one or more worship sites? Which ones? How would this increase the activities identified through the initial reflection process?"

Recommendation 1: "North" Group: Assumption Grotto, St. Raymond/OLGC, St. Bart-St. Rita, Queen of Heaven to coordinate Mass schedules, administration and priests. There are 5 priests, 2 others could be shared. "South" Group already in this model (all other parishes in Group 1).

Question 6: "Could a parish or worship site in its current form close and solely operate as an outreach center or to serve some other ministerial activity? How would that increase the activities identified through the initial reflection process? What resources will be needed, including people, time, talent and treasure?"

Recommendation 1: St. Gregory, St. Benedict or St. Bart-St. Rita to be used for 'youth world', homeless outreach center, food pantry, Catholic senior center, etc. Church would still be kept going, but grants would be needed for financial support.

Supporting data: Demographic information

Question 7: "If there are no Catholic Schools within the planning group, how will the parishes ensure that Catholic School Education is available to students within their parishes? How will the parishes support Catholic School Education?"

Recommendation 1: Regional financial support by A) Charter income or tax B) Percentage of income or C) In-parish tuition rates for all.

Recommendation 2: Vicariate financial support.

Recommendation 3: Establish a high school on the east side of Detroit.

Question 8: "Does the condition of the current buildings and facilities meet the needs and projected needs of each of the parishes in your planning group? Of the schools, if any? Could a parish better serve its population and mission in a different location and where?"

Recommendation 1: St. Bart School may need a new roof in the next 3 years.

Recommendation 2: All parishes have an engineering audit performed on all of the parish buildings if they haven't had one in the last 2 years.

Recommendation 3: All parishes have an energy audit performed.

Question 9: "How do the data, maps and statistics provided support these recommendations?"

The data, maps and statistics provide the past history and future needs consistent with the proposed neighborhood restructuring in the City of Detroit and points to and the reality of what is happening to the parishes in the Genesis vicariate. It is not just a Catholic action plan.

MEETING WRAP-UP

In July and August the APC and CPPC will meet and review the recommendations. They will come back in September with updated recommendations.

DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD LINKS

[APC PLANS & FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS \(Questions 1-9\)](#)

The following are the reference files for the APC Plans & Final Recommendations:

[BASIC ASSUMPTIONS](#)

[REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS OF A PRIEST](#)

[APC YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY SUBCOMMITTEE](#)

[LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE](#)

[STEWARDSHIP & ADMINISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE](#)

[CHRISTIAN SERVICE & OUTREACH](#)

[EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Archibald
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