



MAY 23, 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/Meeting Overview**
2. **Suggestions/Questions/Comments**
3. **Personal & Parish Planning Group Reflection/Discussion/Consensus**
4. **Vicariate Report Final Consensus**
5. **Vicariate Wrap up - Preparation for Next Meeting**
6. **Document Download Links**

OPENING PRAYER - GROUP ASSEMBLY/MEETING OVERVIEW

The opened the meeting at 6:35 pm with a prayer and peace was shared among the members.

The council split into the two planning groups, 'Polonia' and 'City'. They will be discussing APC Planning questions 1-6 which include reviewing their parish's core values, vitality, essential life-giving qualities, hopes and dreams for the future as well as an analysis of how this ties into their evaluation of the information and parish's 5-year plan in light of the internal and external data.

There will be a separate plan made for each group; 'City' parishes (Group 1) and 'Polonia' parishes (Group 2).

SUGGESTIONS/QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

One piece that needs to be considered in reflection and discussion are the 'Basic Assumptions' which are a critical force behind what we're doing. These were distributed along with the APC Plans and Final Recommendations (questions 1-6 being reviewed this evening) and the goals for the areas that are top priorities; Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Christian Service & Outreach, Evangelization & Catechesis, Lay Leadership, Stewardship & Administration and Catholic Schools. The statements in the documents are there to assist in answering the APC questions 1-6; the goal for this meeting.

Alton asked if there were any questions. One rep asked if we're going to be supplied with format for the plan. Yes; it is in the Final Recommendations document. Alton asked if the reps would like to establish an executive committee to put together final recommendations for each parish. In the interim they would gather all of the information from the people on each parish planning team. That team would put it together, send it back out and everyone will have consensus. He noted that as a vicariate, it's up to us if we decide to do that, it's just a suggestion.

Another rep inquired if each parish will have its own plan. Alton said the plan we're going to develop and submit is for the entire planning group; all 5 parishes in Group 2 (for the Polonia group) in this case.

Alton said he's not trying to be vague; he just doesn't want to tell us what to do, the parish reps need to develop the plans for the group based on Final Recommendation questions 1-9. The focus is on planning groups, not individual parishes. He went thru questions 1-3. For example, in answer to Evangelization; if you have no evangelization committee, what's going to be your response? You probably need to develop one.

Another example is if you're talking about doing group-wide confirmation classes; how will that work? You need to plan for where, when, how much is it going to cost, etc. How is it going to happen? Who's going to do it? What are your resources? The planning committee would need a place to meet, determine how often, would you need refreshments, etc. When you're reviewed all the questions you need to be looking at what you're doing as a group.

A rep inquired if Alton's saying that all confirmations should be done as a group? He said that no, he's only using that as an example and that's why he's reluctant to say anything. When you develop a plan; you need to consider what you need to put together to manage that plan?

At end of evening we will try to answer the question; how do we proceed with this process? Form an Executive Committee with one rep from each parish? Or do we come together as Executive board and put down something everyone can live with? Do we send the info back out to all and put together a plan at the final meeting? This will need to be taken into consideration.

Moving onto tonight's questions; everyone should have done their homework. We need to debrief by 8 pm and start delving into the questions. We broke into parish planning groups (City and Polonia) at 6:55 pm. for reflection and discussion.

PARISH GROUP REFLECTION/DISCUSSION/CONSENSUS

1. EVANGELIZATION: "Does each parish have an Evangelization Committee? How do they implement the universal call to holiness and the mission of evangelization? How do the parishes promote the Gospel values by recognizing the dignity of all people?"

Group 1 discussion:

St. Bart-St. Rita: As of now, no; they had a three member committee in the past and hopefully will be starting one again as the new parish council and its commissions are formed. According to their notes, implementations of evangelization by the former 3 members was in its infancy as they spent their first year attending monthly formation seminars at SHS and had not yet formulated a plan for active adult evangelization. Evangelization of youth takes place in their school where the majority of students are non-Catholic and receives Catholic religious instruction. They participate in monthly children's Mass and Christmas/Easter plays reenacting scriptural events. Their parish promotes Gospel values by recognizing the dignity of all people in various ways. Examples are: Use of both traditional and African-American-based hymnals for their liturgies; the continuation of the founder's Polish traditions; EME's conduction Communion service at the homes of the disabled and shut-ins; accommodation of the handicapped and those with special needs in parish activities. They also evangelize through choirs, revivals, festivals, food distribution, etc.

When asked of the group is anyone has an Evangelization committee, OLGC-St. Raymond said they have one, so does Madonna's cluster. Alton noted that evangelization should be a part of everything a parish does.

For example; when the choir sings and people come for that, do you tell them about a special Mass you may be having? When you're doing outreach, do you let them know on Sunday you have a special mass and invite the people to it? Say you're having a Women's group meeting at restaurant; does someone go to the manager and invite them and the employees to church? That's what the evangelization team will be focused on.

Horace said at St. Bart, there's a bakery in the city that gives them bread, etc. on the weekend. He noticed people bringing children to pick up bread; there should be someone to approach them. This is one of the ways they see it coming. The other way is when the school has something in the church, the church is almost full. They're going to have to adopt a plan to zero in on parents for evangelization. They have a very good choir that people come out to hear; they need to redevelop and make the choir bigger. They have a rummage sale the neighborhood anticipates every year; how do they start to recruit those people to join church?

Madonna has the William T. Cunningham choir that goes to other churches and sing, even non-Catholic parishes. They, along with Blessed Sacrament and their cluster parishes have a prayer breakfast, food pantry distribution, picnics, etc. A Revival is currently going on; Madonna had it 2 weeks ago and there are 2 more upcoming. They've also started Bingo.

Blessed Sacrament's notes state they have an Evangelization team with their cluster and activities during the year such as picnics, choir concerts, food pantry distribution, evangelization invites and festivals.

It was suggested that festivals may be a good evangelization tool. St. Raymond said they have a festival, but it was moved off church grounds. Last year it was at the Warren Civic Center and they had a booth specifically for evangelization. In their notes, they are a welcoming, spirit-filled family committed to reaching out to the neighborhood as a mission church. They have youth programs, Bible study, Christian service outreach, St. Vincent DePaul society and support neighborhood organizations.

It was suggested that food distribution programs may be another way to evangelize. When people come to pick up food, maybe the parish could put something in the bags inviting them to Masses or events. Horace noted that the Catholic Church follows scripture; "when I was hungry, you fed me; naked you clothed me" - does the community know this?

From St. Benedict's written plan: Evangelization is done collaboratively with the cluster through revivals, catechetical and faith formation programs. Inserts regarding the Gospel and reflections are always added to the Sunday Mass bulletin. Shut-ins are visited on Sundays and provided with the Eucharist and bulletin. There's fellowship on Sundays where people share stories and offer each other spiritual support and a food pantry where they always listen, encourage, reach out in kindness and love and find opportunities to share the Gospel with gentleness and reverence to the people who come weekly. The church promotes Gospel values by recognizing the dignity of all people by words of affirmation of their values regardless of age, color, culture, religious affiliations, economic status and physical or mental challenges and letting them know they're welcome to belong to our church family.

Group 2 discussion:

*Failure, we need to recognize as a group and create groups to accommodate

Challenge – difficulty working among non-Christians

Approx 6000 Catholics in city, but not all coming to churches (non-practicing)

Hone in on those fallen away

Queen of Apostles: No Evangelization Committee presently. Radio Maryja group comes in once a month as well evangelizing, having a special mass as well as a social afterwards

St. Hyacinth: No evangelization committee presently

St. Ladislaus: No committee presently – actively consider

St. Florian: does not have a true evangelization group, but church has a Hope for America group – young people who learn religion, and try to change the world according to the Gospel. New group started about 6 months ago. Church also has tours open to everyone to promote evangelization.

2. YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS: "How does each parish incorporate young people into activities of the parish? Is that reflected in the parish hopes and dreams for the future? Are young people educated about the role of service in our faith and encouraged to be involved in Christian service activities? Beyond religious education/catechesis, what resources are available to help parents and families build strong foundations of faith in the home?"

Group 1 discussion:

Madonna has young readers at Mass and a youth group. They've mentored younger children and helped them with Bible studies.

Blessed Sacrament's (clustered with Madonna) notes: They have a youth group, Boy Scouts, Easter food baskets, vacation Bible school, 'Kids for Christ', children's Liturgy and young ushers at Mass.

St. Gregory has Boy Scouts, a youth group that prepares food baskets and choir. Their clustered youth used to do food packing and assist with meals-on-wheels.

St. Bart-St. Rita would like to try to get youth to work at festivals and at card parties serving soft drinks, etc.; anything to get the youth in to help. Their notes state there are very few youths in their faith community. Most on the grounds are school students. Youth who attended their 11 am Sunday Mass served as ushers. Catholic and non-Catholic youth in their student body do the following: Create special collection envelopes for monthly collections that assist with the financial support of the school; Support annual food drives for the benefit of the St. Gregory Food Pantry, St. Dominic Outreach Center and Capuchin Soup Kitchen. The children are educated in the views of the Church concerning the love of others and the need for helping those who are less fortunate. It is hoped that if and when they encourage more families with children to join their parish that they may be able to infiltrate more youth-oriented activities.

Queen of Heaven has a 'Kids for Christ' program at Q of H that works with other adults to foster religious education. The youth help with their Festival which is the 1st Sunday in June. They've asked Fr. Tom to help and foster kids to establish

servers at Church to administer during the Mass. Time has lapsed and they need to get going with the program. None of the kids are non-Catholic; kids are children from past parish families or whose parents have served in another capacity. Others participate that don't live in the area, but come back for religious groups. The program doesn't go through the summer months; they hope it's successful and expands.

OLGC/ST. Raymond has a Vacation Bible School and Alton said he would be happy to talk to the priest to get kids in as readers. OLGC has youth that have their own scripture time and the kids appreciate that. They get pamphlets, get to color them and take them home. They have the same scripture as the adults, but it's broken down for them to understand. St. Raymond has teens on Thursday and a program on Saturday with Sr. Rosemarie. They also have a kid's Day Camp for three weeks in July, which reflects their hopes and dreams for the future.

St. Bart-St. Rita has an elderly congregation, but youth in the school. They're primarily non-Catholic, but do engage their support. During their yearly Food Drive kids sent stuff to different outreach services.

St. Benedict's notes: The cluster has a youth group that assists in preparing food baskets, participate in choir and as altar servers, but they have few to none on a regular basis. They hope to have more young people come to church. The role of service in our faith is presented to any young person who attends Mass and they're encouraged to participate in service activities.

Group 2 discussion:

Q of A – English catechism, St. Florian – Polish catechism

St. Florian has youth/kids choir, theatre group, Hope for America group, catechism school and polish school, coffee and cake social every week. Has active young lectors, and young altar servers (learn about liturgy and the church), as well as a yearly Firefighter mass

Queen of Apostles: coffee and cake social every month which is mainly attended by majority of older parishioners, some families attend as well. Religious education program offered for youth, as well as locale for Polish scouting organization, and Radio Maryja religious group.

St. Hyacinth: Blessing of all dance groups. Dom Polski (documentary hosted by a younger parishioner) showing attracted 80 people. Military at veteran services

St. Ladislaus: Young altar servers

What resources are available – cd's, books, cable (EWTN), Polish catholic television (Trwam), reaching out to parents to encourage their children into the faith

St. Florian – 'Love one another' publication/magazine – evangelizing put together by Society of Christ

3. CHRISTIAN SERVICE OUTREACH: "What kinds of Christian service activities does each parish provide to the neighborhood community? How are parishioners invited to share their skills and talents in these ministries? What types of regular donations/collections are there in support of local Christian service activities in the parishes?"

Group 1 discussion:

St. Benedict's Christian activities help the neighborhood community through their food pantry, weekly food distribution and St. Vincent DePaul, Thanksgiving and Easter baskets and Christmas baskets & presents. Parishioners provide skills and talents through information and referral, counseling regarding budgeting and nutrition. They receive donation of food from various parishes during holidays.

Madonna does the same thing but has a twice-weekly food pantry, Christmas baskets, St. Vincent DePaul and the kids volunteer to help with Meals on Wheels.

OLGC has a Breakfast with Santa; this brings in lot of people from the community. Their notes state they need to expand their Christian Service (CS) Commission, they currently have done. They have a Halloween Party, Community Home Board-up and Yard Cleanup. Financial support of CS activities comes from the church budget and 2 or more funding activities including a bake sale.

St. Bart-St. Rita had a food pantry but they lost the facility and the volunteers left the parish, so they initiated a continuous food & clothes collection program that is sent to St. Dominic Outreach center. They have annual school food drives and have ongoing food & clothing collection for this purpose. Any of their community that meets the criteria for need can be assisted by St. Dominic's outreach, even though they're not located in the chartered zip codes. Their notes state they also host a 'Golden Agers' seniors' fellowship gathering on Mondays for all who wish to attend, regardless of parish affiliation. They're conducting Bingo parties on Thursdays open to all; signs are posted in the neighborhood to induce neighbors to come. They have a summer flea market attended by many in the neighborhood and a Christmas 'Giving Tree' sponsored by Christian Women collects small toiletries & clothing for donation. Parish bulletin articles are used to educate parishioners about CS activities and to invite support and participation. They have collections of funds for the support of a variety of CS programs: annual CSA, to support the church in Eastern European, emergency/natural disaster such as the Haiti earthquake, Campaign for Human Development, Religious retirement fund, etc.

Q of H has outreach for kids in the neighborhood by letting them use their facilities for basketball; the hall's used for neighborhood watch programs throughout the week. Osborne community groups meet there as well. They're open for the use of their hall, utilize their facilities. They have fish fry's and dinners; 6 to 7 per year outside of their annual festival.

Blessed Sacrament's notes show they have Meals on Wheels, a food pantry, K of C and they share their dream with 3 group block clubs.

Group 2 discussion:

Outreach Tasks take place on a regular basis/continuous – emphasis on holidays for all Polonia churches.

Queen of Apostles: collections of food to capuchin's, as well as to stock local pantries, Christmas giving tree, Hamtramck block club

St. Hyacinth: food pantry – once a month, good fellows collection, Christmas giving tree, Easter collection for food same for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Donation jar (started 2 years ago) to keep parish afloat, Mission appeals, sponsor 2 orphanages with monetary donations and toys

*Polish Yacht club – donates to St. Hyacinth (adopted) – as their service outreach as well

St. Ladislaus: Soup Kitchen, mission appeals. When Help of Christians closed, all items in the Church were donated to a Polish church overseas in need.

Trans/St. Louis: Food pantries, mission appeals

St. Florian; Food pantry, mission appeals. Society of Christ for churches being established around the world, support seminary

As a group - How do we communicate and invite participation – announcements, flyers, St. Hyacinth even has donation envelopes available.

4. LAY LEADERSHIP: "How are current and potential lay leaders engaged to discern their role(s) in each parish? How are lay leaders formed, supported and evaluated in their leadership role(s)?"

Group 1 discussion:

One rep noted that there's never a 'term' served when you're involved with a parish (lol ☺).

Q of H's rep, an usher stated they participate in events and reach out to people when they come to Mass. They make sure participants that need help have ushers to help them, such as making sure kids going to the bathroom are watched and safe. There's security around the church perimeter, but they still go out and keep an eye on people. They also try to make sure that new people are walked to their car and invited to return.

Most of the time, lay leaders are formed by invitation. If you ask people to do something, they'll help. There's a lot of people who if you don't ask them to help, they won't, but if you ask them, they come.

Alton asked "when you talk about lay-leaders, how you find someone who shares their gifts (teaching, etc.)? By active recruiting?"

One parish replied that it started out with four people who wanted to help kids. They now have some classes and the parents volunteer. Alton asked how they're formed. Do the people get sent to the seminary to get education? Does the pastor teach classes or give edicts to follow? Does the parish look for something when you have a discernment day, when you have people reflect on what they want to do? You have a parish council, ushers and all of these different ministries; what's the active process to get these people in? He also noted that all catechists need to be certified; anyone dealing with kids needs to be certified.

Is there an usher program? Do you ask people to become an usher and give directions of what they need to do? It may not be formal, but it is part of formation. OLGc has books they use following a certain format which helps out a lot. The books are age appropriate.

Alton asked "Do you take leaders and say "you're doing a great job, do you want to go to the seminary for more instruction? One rep noted that people have been doing the same things so long, they just do them. When you get ushers, there should be meetings to give them their expectations; there needs to be some sort of documentation.

OLGC says they send out flyers to enhance their skills and let them know where they can go for more education. Their notes state they have practical good stewardship of what they have. The Commission needs to be expanded to five non-employee members.

St. Bart-St. Rita's people take advantage of leadership conferences offered. When the parishes merged, they needed help forming a new parish council. They relied on people from the Archdiocese; Alton, etc. and there are resources can call upon. The pastor knows people's strengths and goes and asks them to help with things. Their notes say their lay leaders have been assisted by facilitators from the AOD Office of Parish Life for their formation. The facilitators helped organize the first parish pastoral council for the merged parishes and educated the members on their various roles; worked with the PPC and various commission members in the formulation of their parish goals; Alton is guiding the newly appointed PPC with organization, the responsibilities of TIF planning team members and the roles of the various members of commissions. Those wishing to participate in leadership roles have been invited to take advantage of seminars hosted by Sacred Heart Seminary and in special programs organized by other parishes, such as the leadership conferences held at St. Scholastica; Lectors, EME's, Linen Care group, Ushers and special event leadership.

St. Benedict's notes say they participate in MOSES, parish leadership, cluster leadership and vicariate meetings. They were voted in by the parishioners.

Group 2 discussion:

Ie – catechetical instructors, ushers, Eucharistic ministers.

Do you reach out personally to individuals, or reach out via announcements, publication, etc?

Queen of Apostles: DRE approaches individuals to come teach classes, Ushers club general invitation in weekly bulletin

St. Hyacinth: Fr. calls and talks to people personally. Restructured pastoral council to resemble AOD model, based on skill sets.

St. Ladislaus: People are reached out to, out of need (ie need for ushers); certain core group(s), need more personal invitation.

St. Florian: during announcements Fr. reaches out for Ushers. For lectors, Fr. reaches out personally. People like personal invitations.

How do we support/evaluate such efforts?

Group response – by offering assistance as best we can. St. Florian - Polish language school – Pastor has meetings every month with teachers and parents to discuss engagement in parish life activities (family engagement). Queen of Apostles supports financially cost of catechism certification class (ie tuition assistance).

5. STEWARDSHIP/ADMINISTRATION: "How does each parish embrace and teach all aspects of Christian stewardship and discipleship? Are there both a stewardship commission and a finance council in each parish? How is parish financial information communicated to parishioners on a regular basis?"

Group 1 discussion:

Donna from Blessed Sacrament noted that a Finance Council is mandated for all parishes.

Madonna puts their information in their bulletin.

Q of H had annual information of what position the parishes are in, but no longer does that due to the merging of the 3 parishes and the person who did it retired. The rep does the admin portion and has a person to do paychecks.

Blessed Sacrament has a written financial report sent to homes in the cluster quarterly. Within the cluster, they have separate meetings at each parish to discuss it. It was asked if any parish was without one, and the answer was generally "no"; Q of H doesn't have a formal one; they're working at it and hopefully will have help.

Donna asked "how does parish embrace and teach all?" Stewardship is time, talent and treasure. You need to identify people for ministry. Stew is a way of life, not a paycheck.

OLGC-St. Raymond made sure they had training program. When they put the 2 parishes together, they got certified in a stewardship program and they all had to go. It took time out of Saturdays for quite a few months, but it really helped.

Consider K of C part of stewardship. The cluster tries to encourage everyone to try to grow that.

St. Benedict's notes: The stewardship and finance commission is through their cluster. Financial information is communicated quarterly by a financial report in the bulletin.

St. Bart-St. Rita's notes: Their pastor complements the congregation on their generosity while reminding them of their need to keep up or increase their financial support to meet CSA goals or cover unexpected capital equipment replacement/repairs. A Stewardship Committee was recently appointed by the pastor to address the issues regarding financial management of the parish with a focus on cost-cutting. Parishioners are occasionally given an overview of the parish's financial status.

Group 2 discussion:

Group response: How do we teach stipend is part of being a Christian? Explain to people it is their role to take care of a parish. In order to keep church viable, turn in envelopes, ask for donations. Hold Christmas concerts, organ concerts, various breakfasts to raise money.

**Alton side note - Parish finance council – new to us – control/advise Pastor on financial situations in parish. Need to be in place by January 2012. Separate of the council. Fiscal responsibility
Stewardship – time talent and treasure issues; people talking about raising money. Part of parish council*

How do we communicate financial info – bulletins, flyers, website, and direct mail notifications.

St. Hyacinth - Instead of weekly, they do a quarterly report (due to security reasons) to not list how much money is collected during one weekend.

**Alton's suggestion – do a Town Hall meeting to do a financial summary – instead of housing it on paper. That way only those that would truly be interested would come and listen.*

6. CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD PLAN: "What is the role of the Catholic school in the context of these other key priorities in the life of the Church (evangelization, youth & young adults, Christian service, lay leadership, stewardship and administration)? What new and creative ways can unite parishes with schools and vice versa, so that the connection between school and parish is fostered and becomes a source of strength for the Church, even after a child has graduated from school?"

Group 1 discussion:

St. Bart's views the role of school as a major evangelization tool. They try to reach out to them and their parents with special children's Masses, plays, etc. Events attract a significant number of parents/guardians. View it as part of Christian stewardship committee. They help decide which pantry to help – there are 3 different ones. They have an issue with children's parents not being parishioners; how do you form a bond? They feel they may not have done as good a job as

they could, but maybe they could get parishioners to agree to have an open house to host parents/family with a special get-together; an open house with food possibly, and select some of the leadership to get up and give a presentation of what a Catholic is, who are we. Most are Christians; they could highlight commonalities. A lot have been given misinformation. If they give a brief, simple expose, it might entice some into service. They view the school as an 'enabler'.

Alton asked "as a planning group, how can we help the schools in the group?"

When you have that type of activity; have people sign in and leave their contact info; ask them to participate in follow-up programs. They may show up and help out. The more they show up, the easier it is. That's where cooperation sets in. Do this once a year; sign up new ushers. Some want to help, but have no designation. It's nice to have a name for them; say "we're your "such and such" participants and make sure it is documented.

Some feel there's a lack of communication from the school to the rest of parishes. They know their parish gives 15% (if they have a charter school) The school has activities no one knows about. All churches should be informed of the school's activities. The school has a website, need to propagate this information. Paul represents St. Bart for planning activities; he has a communication link to all the parishes and when something comes up he'll send out the information.

It was suggested to put a link from church websites to the Catholic school. Talking about schools in general; what is role of the Catholic school? What does it mean to parishes? What is its role in context of the other priorities in the Church? In terms of evangelization, it is very important; in terms of youth and young adults; they have an option. It provides an avenue to learn about Christian services projects. They need to get kids to stuff baskets, put their names on them and draw pictures to get them involved.

Alton said the use of websites is a good way to keep things like reunions afloat; one parish noted their old school puts out a school paper and sends it to the alumni. It has information on births, deaths, golf outings, how the school teams doing, etc. One question is "how do you keep them connected?"

One rep helped with Drama at Regina High School. He told the principal, after they graduate, a woman's name is going to change (when they get married) and they need to use that information to create reunion list. At Notre Dame, the guys' names don't change.

Horace said one of their alumni kids was on channel 2 reciting a poem. No one mentioned she came from St. Bart. This went out on TV all over the country. He called the school and asked 'why didn't she say she was a St. Bart student?'. Did something wrong somewhere?

Alton said no, but kids need to recognize that this is where you came from and you need to acknowledge it. We need to get our young people to talk about that. His kids' went to reunions of schools they went to and he developed relationships with the parents. You need to bond and remember. These are the lasting relationships that kids pass on.

Donna said that as a planning group; we need to be looking at what we're planning and can't if we don't know what's going on. What is the process to know what's going on in the Catholic school in the area? How can we say what the school is doing if there's no connection? Not just St. Bart but wherever the parish is without a school?

Traditionally schools were parish based; this may change going forward. It may be regional to some degree. Strategically, it may be more on the basis of central region and vicariate. Part of the information to be reviewed is what the schools are working on; when they give us feedback, we'll see their answers to things.

A rep asked "when talking of ParishSoft (the new software all parishes will be using), is there something in software that can help with communication?" Alton said that a parish has to be willing to purchase that version, it's not necessary to purchase it with that aspect. If you have email; you can do the same thing – you can do that now. We need to get a list of schools' emails and websites and let people know when they have events. Even if it's not our parish's school, someone may want the information.

Madonna said they have a 'phone tree', but it may not accommodate entire cluster. They use it to communicate with their membership and it's an automated system. It's possible this can be duplicated on a manual level, have 10 people that call 10 other people, etc. There's ways to work around it and use the technology we have.

Group 2 discussion:

Advocating a need for a catholic school, but is it feasible?

Group response:

There are certainly enough children to attend, but is it financially feasible, no too much money to send children for catholic education (based on avg. wages)

No discussion in the group for creative ways (for funding) as there is no school within planning group.

**Consideration - Is there a possibility to fund going to another Catholic school, subsidize, or transportation to a regional Catholic school? (To discuss in final recommendations)*

VICARIATE GROUP FINAL CONCENSUS

The recorders from each group reported the discussion/answers to questions 1-9.

Paul from St. Bart School said their Planning group has no meeting minutes – they talked about marketing and getting out information about the schools. Each parish that had schools does their own individual marketing. St. Bart has a 3-4 person team, but feels they're not getting the word out as good as they could. Of all school age children, only 3% attend Catholic schools, they have the capacity for more. He posed the question to the AOD rep; "what is the ability to reach broader audiences?" He gets WOW in Warren and sees ads for Warren Consolidated schools. Why can't the AOD do marketing for Catholic schools in general? It would be nice to turn on TV and see an ad for Catholic Schools in Detroit.

Alton said that one issue – a bigger issue – is that all schools now that are parish-based means that the parish, pastor and principal take on the responsibility; you may see that change if they become regional schools. Outside forces have little say or opportunity.

When you think about how to support Catholic schools in Detroit, the Archdiocese is not just the City. It is from the Thumb to Monroe. They have to say ALL Catholic schools, and then distinguish from there. If there's a regional plan it's easier to manage that process. Same if it's a vicariate school to elevate and market. Parish-based schools have territorial issues.

Paul said their Planning group suggests they become regional – Vicariate or city-wide; hope it will help recruit more students.

Alton said we need to be prepared to outline 'who', 'what', 'where', 'when' and 'how' a plan becomes implemented. We could come up with a couple of different plans. Could be regional, vicariate or between all 4 vicariates in the Central Region. We need to qualify what they're saying about regional schools. Can Archdiocesan-wide supported, but don't know how well it's going to fly; the funding has to come from all in the Archdiocese, and what do you do? Create a tax for all? We may wind up with a regional school at the regional or vicariate level.

We'd have broader support with the region, better funding, etc. If you've got 3-4 schools doing K-8 education and you put them all in one building, the overhead goes down, spending money goes up, technology, cost of educating children goes down.

A rep asked what the capacity of St. Bart School is. They have 90 students now, but could have 300 – 350.

Horace, St. Bart rep said when he left St. George's in 1962; it was an old Lithuanian school. He moved near St. Bart and the priest gave him a letter saying to go to Corpus Christi; his neighbors said not to send his kids there because they're prejudiced. He sent his kids for one year to St. Georges. The priest called him and asked why his kids aren't going there. He wanted his kids in Corpus Christi and told him if he has a problem to go see him. Next year, most of kids from St. George went to Corpus Christi and all went well. There's a message there; he's heard comments that parents would send kids there (St. Bart School) if they thought things were right. We need to rethink our Catholic heritage; we're all Catholic and we're all people. There's a school in the area that needs students.

WRAP UP

Alton asked whether, after thinking about it, does the group like the idea of convening an executive group to begin the planning? That group would meet at the next meeting (after meeting with the reps at their individual parish), build a plan, report it back out in a couple days and make sure nothing's left out. We'll then send the 1st plan for the APC to review.

A rep asked what the pastor's responsibility is and if they're going to sign off on it. Alton replied that you have been appointed by your pastor to take part in this process.

When the APC comes back with a decision regarding the initial plan, it's going to be forwarded to the Archbishop. Since it's a plan that came from the people, he'll enact it.

Fr. Kotlarz noted that the clergy have been meeting and their approaches to the questions vary. There's not a convergence.

Alton said, per the Archbishop, it's the responsibility of the team members to have these conversations with your parishes, councils, etc. It's been stated at all of the meetings; Vicars, etc. They're supposed to hear from the people doing the planning; there's not a separate plan that the priests are going to develop. The plan has to come in through this system. Pastors that don't engage have no recourse; they cannot change the plan. If they're told to merge, they're going to have to merge (if that's what the plan calls for). The Archbishop fully support this process; the bishops also.

The group consensus is that they prefer to meet as a whole, not as an executive committee.

This is the first iteration of the plan, not the final plan. The APC and CPC are going to look at the initial plan and come back with questions and suggestions and fill in any areas that are missing. You will want to tell your parishioners about the preliminary plan. Tell them it's consisted of these meetings; these questions, etc. Print and put in bulletin. Nothing you're telling them should be a surprise.

The meeting came to a close at 9 pm.

DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD LINKS

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

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

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

[LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE](#)

[STEWARDSHIP & ADMINISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE](#)

[CHRISTIAN SERVICE & OUTREACH](#)

[EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Archibald
Genesis VPC Recording Secretary