



Genesis Vicariate Pastoral Council

TO SHARE CHRIST IN AND THROUGH THE URBAN CHURCH

MSGR. MICHAEL LEFEVRE, VICAR
9844 WOODWARD AVENUE
DETROIT, MI 48202
(313) 865-6300
WWW.GENESISVPC.ORG

Genesis Vicariate Planning Group 1 ("City" Group), Together in Faith Phase Two Executive Summary November 2011

Group 1 parishes include: Assumption Grotto, Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Church of the Madonna, St. Raymond-Our Lady of Good Counsel, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Bartholomew-St. Rita, St. Benedict, and St. Gregory

Pastoral Priorities

The Genesis Vicariate Group 1 ("City Group") Planning Group addresses all seven of the mission priorities of the Church of Detroit, as evidenced in the details of the plan and summarized below. Additionally our most creative and significant initiative is the collaboration already in place in our vicariate for our Catechetical leaders, who meet monthly.

We are committed to continuing all of these and expanding collaboration in the areas of Christian Service, Evangelization and Young Adults.

1. Evangelization and Catechesis

- **The Genesis Vicariate Planning Group 1 will live out the vision of Evangelization and Catechesis through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
 - i. Establish a Vicariate "Evangelization Committee", tasked with helping parishes move forward in their evangelization efforts. The target date to begin is July 2012.

2. Christian Service

- **The Genesis Vicariate Planning Group 1 will live out the vision of Christian Service through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
 - i. Vicariate-wide interfaith ecumenical conversations particular to Hamtramck are already ongoing; suggest we make it vicariate-wide by March 2012.
 - ii. Quarterly collaboration of Vicariate Christian service representatives. Issues to include outreach, immigration, etc.

3. Youth and Young Adults

- **The Genesis Vicariate Planning Group 1 will live out the vision of Youth and Young Adult ministry through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
 - i. Collaborate with YFACT and AOD resources.
 - ii. Collaborate Vicariate-wide "Youth Sunday" (possibly the 4th Sunday of the month).
 - iii. The vicariate will formulate a "Youth Advisory Team" to work with programs.
 - iv. Provide a centralized location for drop-off and pick-up.
 - v. Offer to extend parish youth programs to the Charter Schools located at our parishes' former Catholic school buildings.
 - vi. Invite and expand a Vicariate-wide Vacation Bible School program.
 - vii. Develop and hold "focus groups" targeted to attract and keep 18 – 35 year olds.

4. Lay Leadership

- **The Genesis Vicariate Planning Group 1 will live out the vision of Lay Leadership through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
 - i. Provide training of new volunteers to get them into rotation as readers, finance committee members, etc.

5. Stewardship and Administration

- **The Genesis Vicariate Planning Group 1 will live out the vision of Stewardship and Administration through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
 - i. Continue yearly Vicariate-wide parish leadership conferences with Trinity and DCPA, for professional and volunteer lay leadership involved in liturgical, formational, commission and conciliar ministries, with an emphasis on the time and talent components of stewardship.
 - ii. Building audits to be completed by 2012-13 (already in process).
 - iii. Most parishes have loans that need to be paid down and this should be frequently updated to the parishioners publicly.
 - iv. Recommend Madonna's LDP loan be changed to reflect a 0% interest.
 - v. by 2013 all parishes will develop a time, talent and treasure survey to Determine the talents of our parishioners and encourage them to take part in parish stewardship by utilizing their particular area of expertise (computers, mechanics, service providers, etc.).

6. Catholic School Education

- **The Genesis Vicariate Group 1 Planning Group will live out the vision of Catholic School Education through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
 - i. The Blessed Sacrament cluster (St. Benedict, St. Gregory, Madonna, and Blessed Sacrament) Finance Council will tithe in support of Catholic Education (above and beyond the 15% from Charter School rental income), to facilitate scholarships to children within the cluster to attend Catholic schools.

7. Vocations

- **The Genesis Vicariate Group 1 Planning Group will live out the vision of Vocations through current and future collaboration efforts in the following ways:**
 - i. As a vicariate, formation and funding by July 2013, to provide training and certification for African-American DRE's to be hired by the vicariate.
 - ii. As a vicariate, formation and funding by July 2013, to provide training and certification for African-American pastoral associates, business managers and other paid pastoral positions, to be hired by the vicariate.
 - iii. Try to bring in as many African-American vocations through Mission Appeals, Home Visitors of Mary, Revivals, etc.
 - iv. Strengthening vocation awareness efforts in all the parishes, including the formation of vocations' committees to foster all vocations and ministers of service.

Strategic Priorities

The Genesis Vicariate Planning Group 1 feels each of the parishes in the group are important for the Church to continue its mission in the Southeast Wayne County; including the Detroit and Highland Park region, as outlined in the Pastoral Priorities.

However, given the projected decline in the number of available priests to serve in this vicariate (including several past retirement age), the declining number of registered parishioners in three of the parishes, and the financial challenges facing several parishes, we offer the following cluster partner and merger suggestions:

Cluster partners upon the retirement or reassignment of a priest, or at the latest by June 2013

- The Blessed Sacrament – St. Gregory – St. Benedict and Madonna Parish Cluster:
 - St Gregory recommends clustering with Madonna and/or St. Benedict and share a pastor by July 1, 2013.
 - Madonna recommends clustering with the SHMS by July 1, 2013.
 - St. Benedict recommends that in the event that Madonna and Blessed Sacrament are not a part of the St. Gregory cluster; St. Benedict recommends clustering with St. Gregory by July 1, 2013. St. Gregory concurs with this recommendation.
 - Madonna will become the 'Training Grounds' for the Urban Ministry Program by July 2013. A Madonna Executive Committee developed and submitted a proposal to Msgr. LeFevre. The proposal follows the TIF structure in addressing the different components of ministry training. They have partnered with neighborhood service organizations (i.e. Focus Hope). The proposal includes information from "Changing Lives Together".
 - A reasonable time frame for the parishes to have their review and the decision to be made would be by June 30, 2013.
- Assumption Grotto Parish
 - Assumption Grotto's cluster partner will immediately be St. Cyril and Methodius, located on Ryan Rd. (North of 18 Mile) in Sterling Heights; as they are the closest linked pastorally and in their spirituality.
- St. Bart-St. Rita Parish
 - St. Bart-St. Rita will cluster or merge with a parish to be named after discussion & discernment by June 2013. They will begin to have discussions with other parishes, such as: Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Mark, Transfiguration-OLCH cluster, etc.