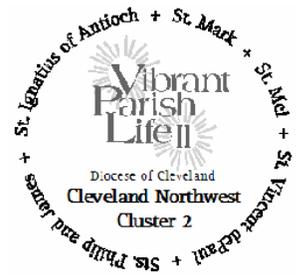


CPC TEAM MEETING MINUTES



DATE: October 2, 2007
TIME: 7:00 pm
PLACE: St. Mel
MEETING: Phase III ~ Third Meeting
SUBJECT: Discerning strengths, needs, and priority issues
REFERENCE: Page 15 of Cluster Planning and Coordinating Handbook

Task 1: The opening prayer was led by Dan Vanek. The prayer was accompanied by a slide show of the parishes in the cluster by Christine Krempel.

Task 2: Dan Vanek reviewed the significant issues and challenges from Bishop Lennon's May 2007 letter to remind the CPC Team what we most need to address in order to strengthen the presence, ministry, and pastoral care of the Catholic Church within our cluster. The significant issues and challenges are:

- Explore the possibilities to strengthen the pastoral care in an equitable manner.
- Develop a plan to serve the area with no more than (4) parishes and no more than (4) priest within the next (3) years and no later than July 1, 2010.
- Study each parish site and its facilities.

NOTE: The study is actually going to be completed by Catholic Charities Facilities Corporation (CCFC). Although our cluster is on "the list" the actual date of completion is unknown and we'll have to fit this in as needed.

- Recognize the concern regarding the ability of some parishes to meet operating expenses and related debt payments.
- Strengthen evangelization and the social community services.
- Engage all of our faithful in regularly attending mass.
- Continue to monitor enrollment trends and collaborate to insure strong and stable Catholic schools – consider consolidating schools to no more than (3) within the next (3) years by no later than July 1, 2010.
- Continue to support Church in the City partnership through cluster-cluster cooperation

Fr. McGonegal met recently with Bishop Lennon and John Maimone (Diocesan Chief Financial Officer) recently about the financial situation at St. Ignatius Parish. Bishop Lennon reminded Fr. McGonegal that Bishop's letter states that the plan submitted should allow for the "...area to be served by no more than 4 parishes and no more than 4 priests." This means that the area could be served by less than 3 parishes and less than 3 priests. The cluster was reminded that it was the CPC Team's responsibility to develop a cluster plan to Bishop Lennon. A concern was raised about the meaning of the word 'consideration' in Bishop Lennon's letter where it says, "...consideration of consolidation to no more than 3 schools...". Other clusters have raised this concern. Further clarification of this point will be needed.

Task 3: Five Discernment Teams, each team made up of one member from each parish, reviewed the data from the following reports that had been emailed/mailed to the CPC Team prior to the meeting:

- 10 year parish/cluster trends and area demographics

- Ministry Assessment Summary
- Staffing Assessment Summary
- Composite Summary
- 5-year Parish Financial Trends Report

The teams concentrated on their respective report discussing the hopes, concerns, fears and other observations they found in the data. A member of the team was asked to serve as recorder to take notes of the discussion.

Task 4: Each team's recorder was asked to present each teams' hopes, concerns, fears and other observations to the CPC Team.

10 year Parish/Cluster Trends And Area Demographics Discernment Team

Michael Hoag, Donna Wimbiscus, Sally Armstrong, Irene Smith, Frank Carangio and Fr. Manning (recorder)

Concerns

1. Outward migration, movement of traditionally non-Catholics into the cluster.
2. Catholic education can be only for the wealthy.
3. If you don't have the money, you can't afford Catholic high school, you move.
4. Low number of attendance at Sunday Mass.
5. Residency requirement in the city of Cleveland.

Hopes

1. That we can survive.

Fears

1. That we are slowly dying.
2. The loss of people to suburbs or inner ring suburbs.

Other Observations

1. Demography of other religions in the cluster is needed.
2. Between 2000 – 2007, there was a 21% reduction in parish membership.
3. 35% - 50% of our population is between 35 – 50 years old...this is not reflected in our parishes.
4. Some of the parishes are far apart, others are close together, this must be considered.
5. Impact of dying neighborhoods.
6. Rise in crime in the area.
7. Loss of housing/foreclosures and the impact on the area as well as on the churches.

Ministry Assessment Discernment Team

Fr. McGonegal, Cheryl Birchfield, Fr. Fedor, RV Threadgill (recorder) and Chris Krempel

Concerns

1. The simple breadth/quality of ministries, the sheer number.
2. Increased meaningfulness and sense for encounter and mystery in each liturgy.
3. Transformation of 'organizations' into 'ministries'.
4. That people from 'outside' the group are welcomed and warmly treated.
5. Establishment of transportation ministry for people to get to Mass.

6. Continuity of Catholic schools.
7. Maybe we need more time.

Hopes

1. Cluster-wide centralized training for certain ministries (e.g. ushers or days of recollection or Eucharistic Ministers) to result in more meaningful liturgies, to take advantage of expertise and diversity.
2. That collaboration will continue with new structure in the cluster.

Fears (none)

Other Observations (none)

Staffing Assessment Discernment Team

Marge Ricksecker, Tom McFadden (recorder) and Mary Kay Kotsybar

Concerns

1. Loss of jobs, added responsibilities for remaining staff.
2. Meeting the needs of the parishioners.
3. Loss of services, i.e. PSR, RCIA.

Hopes

1. That people can get re-employed.
2. That collaboration and team work continue to flourish.

Fears

1. That people have to 'hit the unemployment line.'

Other Observations (none)

Composite Summary Discernment Team

Sr. Dianne, Al Able (recorder), Maria Pelleschi, Fr. Spolny, Fr. Ausperk and Wayne Watson

Concerns and Fears

1. Facilities (St. Ignatius – why start a capital campaign if we would be slated to close).
2. The unknown number of closings makes it difficult to plan.
3. 10 year demographic information is a short amount of time.
4. Vacant buildings will affect structure of the city.
5. Need for evangelization, reaching out.
6. How Catholic are our schools.
7. Inability to attract youth.

Hopes

1. A creative plan to support people during this time.
2. Outreach programs to those in need from all 5 parishes.
3. Strong worship base.
4. Strength of the 4 schools.
5. Youth Ministry active within the cluster.
6. Sports programs help build the base.
7. Somehow we will maintain our individuality within a smaller unit.

Fears (see Concerns)

Other Observations

1. Strengths in collaboration include: outreach, youth ministry, sports, PSR,

music, seniors, adult education, new programs, evangelization.

5 Year Parish Financial Trends Discernment Team

Dan Vanek (recorder), Bob Zalewski, Kathy Lynch, Fr. Miceli and Tom Woods

Concerns

1. Many questions/clarifications regarding reports.
2. Ability to meet obligations.
3. Tuition increases and setting of tuition.
4. What do these numbers mean - will this (finances) ultimately be the deciding factor when making decisions.

Hopes

1. Have heads of finance meet and/or communicate in order to reconcile and clarify the numbers such as to address the concern noted above.
2. Financial stability of the parishes.

Fears

1. That the finances will be driving the tough decision making.
2. That information is not consistent.

Other Observations

1. Need for finance heads to discuss reporting.
2. Tom Woods is willing to analyze information as well as organize a meeting of finance heads to air concerns, clarify reporting, etc

A concern was raised that this is a lot of information to grasp. The next meeting will allow further study, discussion and discernment of the materials. It is important to remember that this is just the beginning of the discernment process toward a plan. Dan Vanek encouraged CPC team members to visit the other cluster parishes for Mass. A facility study will be conducted by the Catholic Charities Facilities Corporation. Pastors should be receiving a phone call from CCFC to arrange a visit to each parish facility.

The fourth CPC Team meeting is Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at 7:00 pm at St. Vincent DePaul Church Hall (below the church).

Future meetings are as follows:

Meeting #5	November 20, 2007	Sts. Philip and James
Meeting #6	December 4, 2007	St. Ignatius
Meeting #7	January 8, 2008	St. Mark
Meeting #8	February 12, 2008	St. Mel
Meeting #9	March 4, 2008	St. Vincent DePaul
Meeting #10	April 1, 2008	Sts. Philip and James
Meeting #11	April 29, 2008	St. Ignatius
Meeting #12	May 20, 2008	St. Mark

Respectfully submitted
Fr. Mike Ausperk
Secretary