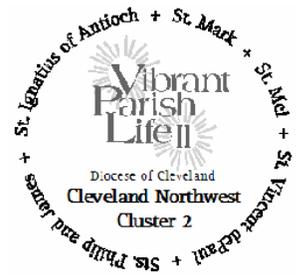


# CPC TEAM MEETING MINUTES



DATE: October 30, 2007  
TIME: 7:00 pm  
PLACE: St. Vincent DePaul  
MEETING: Phase III ~ Fourth Meeting  
SUBJECT: Discerning strengths, needs, and priority issues  
REFERENCE: Page 15 of Cluster Planning and Coordinating Handbook

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Task 1: The opening prayer was led by Dan Vanek.

Task 2: Dan Vanek has created a spreadsheet to track any questions, comments or suggestions during the team's discernment of strengths, needs and priority issues. Dan opened up the group discussion and suggested that the team offer any questions or comments for each parish based on the reports already reviewed.

With reference to the 10 year Parish/Cluster Trends and Area Demographics report, Dan asked for any questions or comments for St. Ignatius Parish. A question was asked about the parish boundaries in the cluster. This information will have to be obtained from the Chancery. There is a map but the parish boundaries are not very clear.

Is clustering important to St. Ignatius Parish? Fr. McGonegal said that St. Ignatius is getting more parishioners from out of the area becoming an intentional parish. Many people come to St. Ignatius for liturgical events, especially funerals. A concern was raised about parish boundaries in light of what happens in adjoining clusters. Cluster plans should take into consideration the plans of adjoining clusters. Is there any explanation for only 22% weekly attendance? Fr. McGonegal thinks the number of households is inflated since there has not been a census in 25 years. It was agreed that the same could be said of any of the parishes in the cluster.

What will happen to parish membership if the Cleveland residency law is changed? It was thought that if the law is changed, there will be a flight to the suburbs but most likely gradual. The second largest religious group in the US is lapsed Catholics. The number of members in a household has been decreasing. St. Vincent DePaul Parish conducted a census 6 years ago visiting every Catholic household in the parish and found great hurt amongst Catholics over many issues including the abuse crisis. There was no follow-up to the census and the issues that were raised by those visited. Up until 2006, there were more baptisms than deaths in the cluster, now there are more deaths than baptisms. Families move to the suburbs for better schools because they cannot afford Catholic schools and choose to send their children to better public schools in the suburbs than can be found in Cleveland.

St. Mark Parish was asked how the school maintains its enrollment? Fr. Miceli thinks it is the publicity the principal does, the young families in the parish and the consistent faculty helps its reputation.

St. Mel Parish was asked about the low number of baptisms and marriages compared to the number of households? Fr. Fedor said it is because they have more older parishioners than

younger ones. St. Mark Parish has a large number of houses that can accommodate more people in a family. St. Mel Parish has smaller houses.

Sts. Philip and James Parish was asked if there has been any impact on the parish since the school closed in 1998? Fr. Spolny stated that the school closing caused a lot of animosity, families with children moved to the suburbs rather than go to another Catholic school or a public school in Cleveland.

St. Vincent DePaul Parish was asked about a growing Middle Eastern population? Yes, there are more Middle Easterners in the neighborhood but they are traditionally not Catholic. It was also noted that 110 houses were torn down to make room for the new Target on West 117<sup>th</sup> Street. Most likely 30-40% of these families were Catholic and moved to the suburbs rather than remain in the city.

It was determined this was taking a lot of time and not moving us much closer to establishing the priority issues which was the goal of the meeting. Dan asked anyone to email him any questions they have for the parishes. He would also be asking the pastors for their answers to a few more questions he had from the reports.

Task 3: In a discussion on the ministries offered at each parish from the Ministry Assessment Summary, it was acknowledged that we are duplicating some ministries and not offer others that might be needed. There was a consensus that education, service to the poor and service to the elderly were consistently needed throughout the cluster. Evangelization can be done as part of these ministries by reaching out to those who are non-practicing Catholics or unchurched.

It was noted that a reduction in staff members will effect ministry. Parishes are just getting by in some cases with the number of staff they have now. Lay staff costs more money. There is a good chance some staff may lose their jobs. Change is always difficult. A suggestion was made that all of the priests of the cluster could live in one rectory to save money and to build priestly fraternity. It was suggested that another rectory could serve as the administrative offices for the cluster parishes and another rectory could house the service to the poor. There is the possibility for many options and the best of use of resources must be a goal. Imagination and dreaming will be necessary to create a plan.

Task 4: After some discussion, it was agreed that the following are the cluster priority issues:

- Liturgy (including sacramental preparation and celebration)
- Education (both of children and adults)
- Service to the poor
- Ministry to the elderly
- Evangelization

A closing prayer was led by Sr. Anne Victory.

The fifth CPC Team meeting is Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at 7:00 pm at Sts. Philip and

James, 3727 Bosworth Road (216.941.6808).

Future meetings are as follows:

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

After the meeting adjourned, the CPC Team Agenda Subcommittee met to discuss the next step in our process of developing a reasonable cluster plan. It was agreed that the meeting plans given by the Diocese are created for those who are not downsizing a parish. In light of this, the agenda for the next 3 meetings will include CPC Team members working in groups of 5. Each group will be asked to develop a cluster plan with a specific focus, i.e. geography, finances, facilities, etc. An agenda for the next meeting will be emailed prior to the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
Fr. Mike Ausperk  
Secretary