

1. Tom Gorman opened the meeting by introducing the Planning Committee: Tom Gorman & Nancy Lamm from St. Helen. He thanked Fr. Tom Schmidt for his gracious offer to host the meeting at St. Francis. Fr. Tom welcomed everyone and noted that this is St. Francis' 40th anniversary. He pointed out the quilts on the wall that tell the history of their parish. Head of the Dayton Deanery Fr. Dave Brinkmoeller led everyone in the Deanery prayer.
2. Current Archdiocesan Priest Availability Trends. Fr. Len Wenke was scheduled to speak on priest availability, but was unable to attend due to illness. Fr. Dave filled in for him.
 - a. Fr. Dave started working with priests in the Archdiocese in 1980 and at that time there were 408 active Diocesan priests. Currently there are 277 diocesan priests in the Archdiocese, 75 of whom are retired. There are 33 diocesan priests in the Dayton Deanery, 4 of whom are retired. Currently 25 active diocesan pastors are eligible to retire; but by 2012, 55 active diocesan pastors will be eligible to retire. The Deanery recently held a gathering of all diocesan and religious priests and brothers; the gathering helped build a good bond of cooperation among them. Archbishop Schnurr has said that he does not anticipate that the priest-retirement policy will change in the foreseeable future, i.e. priests will not be required to continue working beyond the current age standards. Fr. Dave distributed a sheet with some statistics of the priest demographics in the Archdiocese. Please refer to that for more in depth statistics.
 - b. Fr. Dave said that some pastors are willing to work toward the goal of regional pastors, but others are hoping the problem will go away. But the trend in a decreasing number of priests will continue, and Archbishop Schnurr has said he supports our process for dealing with it. In 2012 we will have around 100 Diocesan priests to be available to be pastors. There will be more than 100 priests, but not all priests have the gift of being a pastor. Fr Dave emphasized that every parish needs to be involved in raising up young men to be priests.
 - c. A question was asked about the potential impact of the recent announcement that Anglican priests could, under certain conditions, be accepted into the Catholic Church. Fr. Dave replied that it's too early to know what the impact will be.
 - d. The Futures project had required that every pastor had to submit a regional model by Advent 2008. That deadline is long past, but in some cases, we still have a way to go.
3. Lay Pastoral Ministry Program (LPMP)/Parish Life Coordinator Program (PLC). Fr. Dave also addressed these programs. The intent is to relieve the Pastor of as many administrative duties is possible in order to allow more time for priestly leadership. A Parish Administrator is individual who oversees a parish that doesn't have an on-site pastor. A PLC is a general manager who oversees a parish that has an on-site pastor. Fr Dave then reviewed the brochure provided attendees on the LPMP, including the program description,

academic/spiritual formation requirements and associated pastoral care and mentoring. (Refer to brochure for more details)

4. Regional Reports. Tom explained that Regions 1 & 13 were not able provide representatives to the meeting. All regions will be answering the following questions:

- As you plan for region's future, how is it going?
- What has been your greatest regional success?
- What has been your greatest regional challenge?

(These questions will not be repeated in each presentation)

REGION 2 – Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Mercy, Queen of Martyrs -- Fr. Del Staigers, presenter

- Things are going well; the region has one of each commission and functions in many respects as one parish.
- We are challenged by the number of parishioners that continue to move out of our area.
- Financially we are in very solid standing, thanks to the actions we have taken.
- One staff has unified the vision of ministry for the parish.
- Our liturgies are more vibrant.
- The more involved a parishioner is, the more they understand the vision.
- As more functions are taken on by staff and laity, the pastor is increasingly available to perform the Sacramental ministry he was ordained for.
- It's important for parishioners to understand that a parish's existence goes beyond whether it has a parish school, or not. It's also important to help people to see beyond "my own church building" to the life of the region (let alone the local Church).
- It's important for staff and commission members to support the vision of the Dayton Catholic Urban Presence.
- Parishioners need to view our region as being stabilized, rather than dying.
- The region needs to consider how long we can support all of the facilities that we currently operate.

REGION 3 -- St. John the Baptist and St. Christopher -- Elise Wahle, presenter

- All is going well
- Our committee of 6 (3 from each parish) has continued to work very well together since the beginning and have become friends.
- The two parishes have helped each other with major events such as anniversary celebrations.
- We put together a sub-committee to research all the variables that need to be considered when developing a new Mass schedule for a shared pastor. Sub-committee members worked well together and created an excellent report that will be extraordinarily useful.
- We are lucky our parish communities are similar in culture.

- We lack adequate worship space capacity for the number of people who attend weekend Mass, given that the number of Masses offered is limited by how many one priest can celebrate in a weekend.
- Not a “great” challenge but we still need emphasize to our parishioners that our parishes will not merge but rather share a pastor and a regional identity.

REGION 4 -- St. Paul, Precious Blood, St. Rita -- Linda Bany, presenter

- We are in a transition mode at this time. In late spring, one of our priests took an assignment outside of the region leaving us with two priests. Due to the fact that we were “ahead of the curve” in terms of pro-active planning, collaboration and cooperation in our region, the Archbishop appointed Fr. Bill O’Donnell, Pastor of Precious Blood, as Pastor of St. Rita also. With that appointment, Fr. Ed Pratt was named as Associate Pastor of both Precious Blood AND St. Rita parishes. This has been a great comfort to the parishioners of St. Rita as well as a blessing for our whole region. Implementing our plans has had success; however, St. Rita’s parishioners have experienced the biggest adjustment with the unexpected, early departure of their pastor and transitioning to the new appointments. Our Pastoral Regional Planning Committee will continue its efforts in having things go as smoothly as possible for all three of our parishes.
- We have had two great successes. They are the annual Tri-Parish picnic and the regional Sat. afternoon Mass now in its second year.
- Two challenges for us are the implementation of our plan in the transition from three pastors to two, as well as keeping the tradition and identity of each of our three parishes as a priority.

REGION 5 -- Ascension -- Celine O’Neill, presenter

Celine explained that Ascension is a region of its own, and she is reporting the collaborative between Regions 5 & 6, which is called One Bread One Body Partnership

- We’ve established a unique and positive relationship between two regions and three parishes that has laid the groundwork for continued growth in the future. A great part of our strength is that we respect and capitalize upon the differences of the three parishes.
- We’ve undertaken a series of successful collaborative initiatives, conducting an annual Eucharistic Procession, conducting combined Reconciliation services, holding semi-annual pulpit exchanges, alternating summer holiday Masses, sharing Holy Day schedules, combining an RCIA retreat and pursuing collaborative outreach projects. We have good participation in regional events; folks have become comfortable worshipping at partner parishes and dropping their envelopes in the collection, knowing that they’ll be sent to the home parish.
- Developing a vision & concrete goals that would provide additional impetus for further collaboration continues to be an ongoing challenge

REGION 6 – Immaculate Conception, St. Helen -- Nancy Lamm, presenter

- In July of 2008 the two parishes began sharing Fr. Dave Brinkmoeller as pastor and Fr Satish Joseph as associate pastor. Several years of planning and meeting with one another on a regular basis helped to form a working relationship and help form the foundation for a plan. Our Pastors travel from parish to parish making it seem that the transition has been seamless (at least from the outside).
- We have had success in many ways, our parish councils continue to meet jointly twice a year and other commissions and staff are meeting together to discuss issues common to our partnership. The most transparent and inspirational was our Lenten mission given by Fr. Satish & Fr. Raj Paul. We set aside any of those “my turf” feelings and worshipped side by side at both parishes, ending with a shared meal at I.C. with over 500 participants. This brought us together in a new and exciting way and for some made it OK to step out of our boundaries.
- Currently we are working together studying the inter-working of our commissions and committees with the goal of making a workable plan for both, and hopefully lessening some of the challenges that lie ahead as we continue to play for the day when we will share one priest.

Region 7 -- St. Joseph, Emmanuel, Holy Trinity – Walt Kyrgowski, presenter

- Our Region was recently blessed with the assignment of a new pastor for St. Joseph (to replace the previous pastor who retired); thereby allowing us to maintain a full complement of pastors.
- We completed an outline of sacramental responsibilities to identify our strengths, opportunities & weaknesses & identify best practices to preserve the uniqueness & culture of each parish.
- Our greatest success is the Region pastors’ implementation of the modified Holy Day Mass schedule we recommended.
- Because of our work in identifying weaknesses/threats, the parishes are reporting greater laity involvement.
- There is a greater understanding and appreciation by parishioners of the unique culture of each parish through our efforts in encouraging Regional events.
- Challenges include engendering a sense of urgency, since we are working entirely with “unknowns” and lack of planning guidance/framework, communicating our work effectively to the parishioners, and rotating committee membership in a timely way.

REGION 8 -- Holy Angels, St. Anthony -- Frank Surico, presenter

- Things are going well on parish level with Masses & Sacraments; not so great with schools, since each parish tends to see its school as a “sacred cow,” making this issue more difficult.
- Mass schedule, pulpit exchange, youth ministry programs are our biggest successes.
- Schools are a challenge, especially in the 7th & 8th grades programs. Holy Angels is considering moving their 7th & 8th grades to the same location where U.D. houses the Dayton Early College Academy. St. Anthony’s 7th & 8th graders have been invited to

come there. The concept anticipates a future when a junior high (7th/8th graders) will be part of high school; this concept is an example of a potential deanery school for junior high. However, discussions are bogged down on space usage. St. Anthony's has space and would prefer that Holy Angels send bring their 7th/8th graders there; Holy Angels wishes to utilize the U.D. location.

- External forces support individual schools and thus affect how schools are able to stay open. These external forces come in the form of ED Choice Vouchers and individual money gifts.
- The process of collaboration from the ground up is in need of better direction from the Deanery level

REGION 9 -- St. Francis, St. Charles -- Fr. Tom Schmidt, presenter

- Fr. Tom & Fr. Gerry Haemmerle of St Charles sat down to go over the questions and they were pleasantly surprised & amazed at how far the parishes have advanced in their collaborative relationship.
- The parishes need to focus on communicating on different levels so they are not duplicating activities.
- Staffs had a retreat together so now when they talk to one another they are friends.
- Every public holiday we only have one Mass & exchange pulpits at that time.
- In anticipation of the possibility of sharing a pastor, the parishes are reviewing their Mass schedules for possible consolidation.
- A large Baptist church is located behind St. Francis and has changed their schedule to accommodate St. Francis, so we will to consider them as we discuss our suggested new Mass schedules for traffic flow reasons.

REGION 10 -- St. Henry, Our Lady of Good Hope -- Mike Fitzgerald, presenter

- St. Henry's enjoys a balanced parish that has a foundation of an established membership & new members joining steadily. Our parish has witnessed good times as well as challenges, each with their own unique struggle & solution. In the face of our current economic condition, St. Henry's has remained a mainstay for the community and is looking forward to our Jubilee celebration next year. While many parish members have been financially stricken, we've continued to rise to the challenge of helping others. St. Henry's incorporates over 40 different outreach programs from Cancer counseling, Living I, to assisting our sister parish in Haiti. While the world around us continues to change and influence our local community, our parishioners continue to find a solid foundation in the beloved St. Henry's
- Our biggest challenge is inspiring a new commitment to our faith: while this might not seem to be as dramatic as a new building or successful program, it is simply a result of many successes that allow and encourage this commitment. In a world that challenges the individual daily to assess and reassess goals, needs, beliefs and morals, St. Henry's has continued to be the foundation of so many lives. This foundation empowers our parishioners not only to protect themselves from the negative aspects of their lives but also gives them the tools and desire to help others overcome their burdens. As our

father Tom says, "We're all on this journey together, while we all hope and pray it leads us to Jesus, helping each other with the journey ensures that it will lead us to HIM."

- St. Henry's has transformed our leadership from uncertainty to renewed hope and confidence. This was no easy task. Father Tom & Father Ron have become the inspirational rock that became the foundation upon which our St. Henry's could flourish.
- As we reflect on the growth & achievements of our history, we gain an understanding and excitement of our future. A future that connects parishioners as well as parishes so we may fulfill our promises to Christ.

REGION 11 -- St. Luke, Queen of Apostles -- Bob Brooky and Joan Ivory presenters

- We are doing very well.
- Our challenges have been our styles. St. Luke is a large parish and Q of A is very small, with no full time pastor, no parish council, and no paid staff.
- Each wants to maintain its unique identity.
- One of the successes is that St. Luke advised Q of A on its system for accomplishing various functions; learning who to speak with at St. Luke's on various matters has been very helpful to Q of A.
- At one point the committee didn't have any community with St. Luke parish council, but there has been a change to include Q of A.
- Have great people that we work with but the big thing is the difference in style.

REGION 12 -- St. Adalbert, Holy Cross, St. Stephen, Our Lady of the Rosary (the Old North Dayton (OND) churches) St. Peter – Joy Blaul presenter

- Several projects & programs under development are:
 - A Region 12 newsletter published every six months.
 - Combining the publicity of adult faith formation activities in a booklet distributed in August to families in each parish.
 - Listing website addresses and programs on each website and in each parish bulletin.
 - The OND churches held a parish mission aimed toward couples and families. This event included a dinner. St. Peter parishioners were invited to attend. We shared the expense of the marketing.
 - OND churches have had social events such as Mardi Gras, ballroom dance classes, dances, picnics, and ethnic cooking classes, all of which were publicized at St. Peter's and which St. Peter parishioners attended.
 - St. Peter's Christmas Bazaar has been advertised and supported by the OND churches.
 - St. Peter, in conjunction with OND churches, held a very successful Multi-Cultural Fair the weekend of Oct. 17-18. Region 12 spent over a year planning this event together.
 - St. Peter agreed to open their Religious Education classes and Youth Ministry programs to OND students.
 - St. Peter Men's Retreat was publicized to the OND churches.

- The priests from St. Peter and OND churches have served at each parish for Communal Reconciliation Services during Advent and Lent.
- St. Peter has made available their school buses for transportation to offsite OND parish retreats.
- Challenges include:
 - It is hard to communicate with each other regarding upcoming events
 - Continuing to develop plans for ongoing collaboration
 - Parishioner awareness of shared resources
 - Publicizing what is available in each parish.
 - Inclusion of school activities especially during Catholic Schools Week

REGION 14 – Incarnation -- Tim Niesel, presenter

- We are conscious of the fact that we consider what areas could we collaborate with other pastoral regions. We do not want to “wall” ourselves off
- We have collaborated with the South Dayton Pastoral Regions to celebrate communal Reconciliation Services for Advent and Lent
- We have opened up various programs offered at Incarnation to other regions, i.e. Men’s Fellowship, Bible Study, Youth Ministry, Vocation Committee work, Social Justice, Just Faith, Catch the Building Spirit
- Our biggest challenge is to get parishioners to “move” to actually go to another parish for services or programs.
- Another challenge is that Incarnation parishioners have not experienced having to do things differently, or doing without. They do not see the sense of urgency.

5. QUESTIONS FOR REGIONS:

- a. For Region 10: Are you really working with Our Lady of Good Hope? Mike Fitzgerald responded yes, in fact we just met with them today & talked about how we can collaborate.
- b. For Region 4: Please expand on the Sat. 4:30 Mass. Linda Bany replied that the initiative began in 2008 as a trial. The parishioners were surveyed, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The Mass rotates among the parishes, and was held this year at St. Paul. Additionally, the priests rotate and the liturgical ministers are drawn from all three parishes. Attendance is typically in the 450-500 range. Fr. Dave added if urged the other regions considering such an option to contact Region 10 to review the strategy they used to communicate with their parishioners. Fr. Tom asked about how the collection is handled. Linda answered parishioners of each parish could drop their parish envelopes in the collection basket. Additional envelopes are provided at the host church for parishioners designate which parish the offering is intended for. In regard to loose change, the host parish was given 1/2 & the other 1/2 was split with the other parishes.

6. MEETING CRITIQUE

- a. Tom asked "Did you find this meeting helpful for your region?" The consensus of attendees was that the meeting was indeed helpful.
- b. Tom asked "What could we do to make it better?" and the following responses were given:
 - 1) Have greater collaboration within each of our own regions.
 - 2) Make greater use of E-mail to share info among the regions; consider establishing a list server to facilitate email communication.
 - 3) Conduct the next meeting as a mini-retreat or workshop: Organize attendees in small groups and give each group questions to discuss and report on to the main body.
 - 4) Allow more time for informal communication between the regions, including right now.
 - 5) Help each other informally among the regions.
 - 6) Come together every year. We have seen a lot of progress since we last met so maybe meeting more often would be beneficial.
 - 7) We should meet at least twice a year with some kind of work shop and not let our enthusiasm end with this meeting.
- c. Tom asked Fr. Dave to confirm that these suggestions will be considered in some way. Fr. Dave replied that all suggestions will be considered. He added that he would be willing to try the small-group workshop approach in the next few months, but that he would need help to make it happen. The following volunteered to work on the project: Mike McDonald - Region 7, Matt Ruttle - Region 4, and Charlie Helldoerfer - Region 2.

7. Tom thanked the attendees for their attendance and participation, and he thanked Fr. Tom and his staff for their help with the accommodations. Fr. Tom led the closing prayer.

Recorded by Nancy Lamm -- Region 6 -- St. Helen

- Region 2- Our Lady of Mercy, Queen of Martyrs, Corpus Christi
 - Fr Del Staigers (Regional Pastor, presenter)
 - Denny Bensman
 - Ann Szabo
 - Charlie Helldoerfer
- Region 3- St. Christopher, St. John the Baptist
 - Elise Wahle (St Christopher, presenter)
 - Fr Marc Sherlock (St Christopher)
 - Kathleen Mcrillis (St. John the Baptist)
- Region 4-St. Paul, St. Rita, Precious Blood
 - Linda Bany (Precious Blood, presenter)
 - Matt Ruttle (St Rita)
 - Barbara Kreuzer (St Paul)
- Region 5-Ascension
 - Celine O'Neil (Ascension, presenter)
- Region 6-Immaculate Conception-St. Helen
 - Nancy Lamm (St. Helen, presenter)
 - Fr. Dave Brinkmoeller (Regional Pastor)
 - Fr Satish Joseph (Associate Regional Pastor)
 - Tom Gorman (St. Helen)
 - Linda Kasten (St. Helen)
 - Deb Bauer (Immaculate Conception)
 - Jack Putnam (Immaculate Conception)
- Region 7-Holy Trinity, St. Joseph, Emmanuel
 - Walt Kyrgowski (St. Joseph, presenter)
 - Alan Heck(St. Joseph)
 - Mike McDonald (Emmanuel)
 - Susan Sauer (Emmanuel)
- Region 8-Holy Angels, St. Anthony
 - Frank Surico (Holy Angels, presenter)
 - Sr Annette Grisley (Holy Angels)
 - Maxine Cooper (Holy Angels)
 - Janet Gaier (St Anthony)
- Region 9-St. Francis, St. Charles
 - Fr Tom Schmidt (St Francis, presenter)
- Region 10-Our Lady of Good Hope, St. Henry
 - Mike Fitzgerald (St Henry, presenter)

- Region 11-St. Luke, Queen of Apostles
 - Bob Brooky (Queen of Apostles, presenter)
 - Tom Zawodny (Queen of Apostles)
 - Joan Ivory (Queen of Apostles)
 - Joe Von Holle (St Luke)
 - Bruce Foster (St Luke)
- Region 12-St. Peter, Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Adalbert, Holy Cross, St.Stephen
 - Carol Svisco
 - Feliza Poling (St Peter)
 - Joy Blaul (St Peter)
 - Phyllis Wysinski (Old N Dayton Catholic Churches)
 - Bill Wysinski (Old N Dayton Catholic Churches)
- Region 14-Incarnation
 - Tim Niesel (Incarnation, presenter)