



# MULTIPARISH COOPERATIVE SERVICE GROUP

*They sowed fields and planted vineyards  
that yielded a fruitful harvest* Psalm 107

December 19, 2004

## Minutes

### Multiparish Cooperative Meeting

Host: Tim Kidney  
Site: St. John Vianney  
Date: December 3, 2004  
Time: 12:00 to 2:00 PM

Attendees: Fr. Robert Brocato, Steve Brown, Tim Kidney, Eddie Samaniego, John Sandersfeld, Br. Jim Sanders; Victor Espinoza, Joe Swyt

Note: Minutes are published on the Cooperative website: [www.mpcsg.org/mins.htm](http://www.mpcsg.org/mins.htm)

Staff Day	Clergy Meeting	Deanery Meeting	Clergy Meeting	Staff Day
Tuesday	Friday (TBD)	Tuesday Evening	TBD	Friday
January 25, 2005		March 8, 2005		May 6, 2005
11:00 to 2:00 pm		7:00 to 9:30 pm		11:00 to 2:00 pm
Most Holy Trinity		St. Francis Assisi With the Bishop		

### Vietnamese Letter to Bishop McGrath

The team reviewed and discussed draft letters and Robert's additions to Bishop McGrath and arrived at the following resolution:

1. Robert, Jim, Joe and Victor will finalize the letter from the six pastors with the agreed upon changes and mail it Bishop McGrath with copies to Fran Cila, the Vicar for Vietnamese Community and the pastor of St. Patrick-Proto Cathedral.
2. The goal is get a meeting together and finalize a decision by June of 2005
3. Following the meeting, Joe incorporated the changes and sent it to Robert, Jim and Victor for final edits after which it will be mailed and copied to the pastors.

### Stephens Ministry

John and Robert presented a request for Coop and parish funding to institute the Stephens Ministry program in the deanery. The costs would cover registration, minister training and materials. The pastors of SMG, SJV and MHT voted against the proposal because this was not a budgeted item at this time. The proposal was withdrawn but can be resubmitted for consideration in April-May prior to finalizing parish budgets for FY2006.

### Deanery Financial Support to Diocese

Joe submitted the final ADA and Diocesan Tax results for the deanery. It indicates that the Deanery's contribution to the diocese of ADA and Tax increased to \$946,457 for FY2005 or 12.5% of the diocese goals from \$672,610 or 11.2% in FY2003. In addition, five of the



## MULTIPARISH COOPERATIVE SERVICE GROUP

*They sowed fields and planted vineyards  
that yielded a fruitful harvest    Psalm 107*

parishes have a total debt of approximately \$15 million or one-third of the total Deposit and Loan debt. This indicates that cash flow is from the deanery to the diocese, at a time when these six parishes are challenged by debt, lack of facilities, reduced staff, increasing population, cultural diversity, trend to lower income families and inability to establish capital campaigns to address immediate parish improvement, maintenance and expansion needs.

It was resolved to:

1. Schedule a meeting with the Bishop, Vicar General and CFO to present the status and needs of the Deanery to:
  - a. seek to gain a change in the ADA formula that will allow the parishes to keep more resources in the parishes
  - b. seek to achieve an agreement on the split for those parishes with debt in the parish goals for the diocesan capital campaign
2. Actions:
  - a. Joe to get a date prior to late January with Bishop McGrath, Fran Cila and Bob Serventi, preferably in the evening at a local parish to accommodate participating lay leaders.
  - b. Each parish will identify to Joe no more than two lay leaders per parish, either chairs of the finance team, parish council or someone with credibility.
  - c. Joe to coordinate data and initial meeting with parish lay leaders.
  - d. Tim to join Joe at the preparatory meeting to set agenda
  - e. With the Bishop, Tim as Dean will make the introductions, pastors will attend but allow lay leaders to speak, then speak at the end of the meeting

### **Lay Ministry Formation Program**

In the past two years the Cooperative provided financial support for the **“Parish Lay Ministry Formation”** seminar that was organized and directed by four dedicated staff members of St. Maria Goretti and St. Francis (Sr. Catherine Dang, Jeanne Gaffney, Will Sousae and Victor Espinoza). In total, 605 parishioners participated with 229 members completing all ten sessions. Below is a table of participants by language.

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Total</u>
English	69	144	213
Vietnamese	93	121	214
Spanish	81	97	178
<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>605</b>
Participating Parishes	12	9	
<b>Number completing all classes</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>229</b>



## MULTIPARISH COOPERATIVE SERVICE GROUP

*They sowed fields and planted vineyards  
that yielded a fruitful harvest* Psalm 107

The program charged a \$20 per participant fee last year that resulted in an increase in participant fee revenue. Fees were not charged the prior year but relied on donations. The program utilized fewer speakers from the parishes so that the team did not have to coordinate and teach at the same time and this increased speaker stipends. By charging a fee, the amount of sponsorship from the Cooperative was cut in half. The average cost per participant was \$21.70 and the average cost to the Cooperative was \$5.54 (it was \$12.50 in 2003). Total revenue was \$3,924.00 less expenses of \$5,270.00. Total cost to the Cooperative was \$1,354.00.

This year, St. Dang is in Vietnam, Will Sousae is in a different position as is Victor. There is not sufficient staff and financial resources in the parishes to organize the program for January 2005. As important as the program is, the pastors resolved not to continue the program this year due to the lack of resources.

The next Cooperative meeting will follow the February Clergy meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.