



MULTIPARISH COOPERATIVE SERVICE GROUP

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

September 1, 2004

Minutes of Multiparish Cooperative Meeting

Host: St. Francis of Assisi

Date: August 27, 2004

Time: 11:00 to 1:00 PM

Attendees: Fr. Brocato, Brown, Kidney, Samaniego, Sandersfeld; Victor Espinoza, Joe Swyt, Will Sousae, Dennis Scott, Mike Hammer, Jose Arenas, Jim Brennan.

Note: Minutes are published on the Cooperative website: www.mpcsg.org/mins.htm

Next Clergy Meeting:

Friday, October 8, 2004

Christ the King

11:00 to 1:00 pm

Next Deanery Staff Meeting

Friday, November 12, 2004

Welcoming and Prayer: Fr. John as the host pastor led the group in the opening prayer.

Presentations

Youth Internship Program

Will Sousae and Dennis Scott presented an overview of the Youth Internship Program previously approved by the pastors and sponsored by the Cooperative. Dennis has been hired as the Director of the program effective August 23rd reporting to Joe Swyt. Foundation funding requests have been made. Parish interviews will be scheduled, young adult interns will be identified and the program will be kicked off in September.

The new interns include: Denisa Randazzo - Confirmation; Marvin Dulay - High School Youth; Liana Randazzo - Junior High Ministry; Julius Bercasio - Young Adults; Ben Cruz - 6:00 Ecclesial Community.

PACT

Mike Hammer and Jose Arenas presented an overview of the educational problems facing students in the deanery, the programs that PACT is supporting in the development of a choice system of charter schools and scheduled community programs to address the issues.

St. Francis of Assisi Memorial Garden

Jim Brennan, Manager of the Memorial Garden, presented an agreement to the pastors providing for a commission that will be paid to each parish for sales resulting from referrals made by the participating parishes. Brochures and information will be provided to each parish and all they are required to do is refer parishioners to the Memorial Garden team.



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Agenda Discussion Topics

Loyola New Orleans:

Joe Swyt is the coordinator for the Loyola Certificate in Parish Life and Administration program. Discussion centered on how to promote the program for higher levels of participation among clergy and staff. All present agreed that the program is excellent, has high value and should be promoted to clergy, staff and lay leaders. Some parishes do not now have the funds to send staff members. Options include investigating a Fri/Sat agenda so that staff and lay leaders could attend and also consider contacting the Franciscan, Dominican and Jesuit schools in Oakland as a practical parish experience for their students.

Vietnamese Masses & Ministry

After discussion on the Vietnamese Ministry Team meetings, it was decided that Victor Espinoza of St. Maria Goretti will draft a letter to the Bishop stating the issues and facts surrounding the Vietnamese community in the Deanery and request a meeting to discuss possible options. The draft will be reviewed, signed by the pastors and sent to Bishop McGrath.

Cooperative Financial Report

Joe provided a financial Income and Expense statement for the Cooperative from inception to June 30, 2004.

Parish Mass Schedule and Statistics

Joe provided a mass schedule chart for the six parishes that summarized the times and language. Also included is a parish and deanery statistics summary. These six parishes conduct 51 weekly masses in four languages serving 26,020 mass attendees, which is approximately 27% of the total diocesan mass count. The cultural mix of the deanery is 45% Hispanic, 27% Filipino, 21% Vietnamese and 7% Caucasian. The weekend mass attendees as a ratio of mass capacity (number of masses times the seating capacity) is 85% indicating little available room to handle the anticipated growth in attendance. Vietnamese masses at MHT, CTK and SMG are not available during the prime Sunday family time.

Catholic Roundtable 2004

Joe provided a CNS report and overview on the Wharton Catholic Roundtable conference that he attended on July 9-10 with Don Watters and Sr. Pat Mitchell.

Deanery Planning Meeting

The Cooperative will organize a Deanery Staff planning meeting on November 12 to discuss and prioritize collaborative efforts among the parishes. The Clergy meeting (which includes parish administrators) will meet on October 8 to discuss and set the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.