



General Minutes from Lake/Geauga District Meeting May 13, 2019

Prayer/Lunch/Welcome (52 attendees)

Mass at Jail - Anthony Camino

Update per Dan Phillips who coordinates Lake County prison ministry whose mission is to provide bible studies, confession, and a strong Catholic presence in the jail. Fr. Chris Zerucha was very instrumental in this, but since his transfer to Akron, we need to coordinate ways to assist. A postcard was handed out to priests asking for more participation by way of occasionally celebrating Mass, typically twice a year and to hear confessions.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Event - Jennifer McLaughlin, Lake County Council on Aging

Will be held Wednesday, June 12th – at the Fairport Senior Center from 2 to 4. June 15th has been designated as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Theme is "Lifting Up Voices". At the 6/12 event, a video will be shown, and community representatives, first responders will be there. Jennifer reviewed elder abuse facts and provided handouts.

Ministry Discipleship Conference/Agenda Committee - Maureen Dowd

This year's conference will be held Saturday, October 19th at St. Mary, Chardon from 8:30am to 1:30pm. Keynote is Fr. Tim Plavac and our theme will be "Stories of Discipleship - Making a Difference". We have created an online form to help in planning the conference and the 2019/2020 district meetings. We are asking attendees to complete the online form or the paper form on the tables. If interested, please look to joining the Agenda committee as well. This is our 5th Annual Ministry Discipleship Conference - first time in Geauga county. Idea behind theme - that prep and organization can help make a difference in laying out fertile ground of discipleship and helps with the actions. There are 6 breakout sessions. Please don't schedule a parish event the same day so folks can attend the conference. Agenda committee is currently focused on securing breakout speakers.

Next Steps for Young Adult Ministry - Laura McBride

An ad hoc committee will be formed and five people have offered to join thus far. The kickoff meeting will be held 6/3 at 7pm at St. John Vianney. The goal of the meeting will be deciding direction and agenda for Young Adult Ministry (20 to 40 years of age) in the district.

Update on the Diocese and Parish Life Secretariat - Sister Rita Mary Harwood, SND

Youth Ministry - Task force of 25 young people from throughout the Diocese representing a variety of ministries has been created to look at young adult ministry. Terry Flanagan and Lynette Saenz are co-chairing.

Clerical Abuse - A list will be released soon of all clerics from the Cleveland Diocese credibly accused. A group has been working on the diocesan response - How can the diocese help those who suffered abuse, and for whom will this information bring up feelings and hurts? The Long Journey home is the title of the group tasked with this responsibility

and their first focus is creating therapeutic support groups and retreats to be offered to those affected. In the past, beginning in 2003 and for 2 years, these retreats were held and these will start them back up in the fall. On June 19, at St. Christopher's from 2 to 4, a workshop will be held for those who are ministering to those who are affected by abuse. Encouraging courageous conversations where people gather to express feelings/thoughts and what would be helpful in addressing the issue of abuse in the Church. Renew International has a 6 part program called, "Healing Our Church". The Diocese will offer this in two areas and evaluate its effectiveness. Considering Lake/Geauga area if there is a parish interested. Please continue to look at the website for updates.

Secretary for Education and Catechesis - Were two offices in one, but now will be separated. Frank O'Linn is the Secretary for Education. Please consider folks who might be good for the Secretary for Catechetical Formation and encourage them to apply. Looking to identify someone by July or August.

Evangelization Office - Terri Baldwin has moved to North Carolina, and a new office – Mission and Discipleship is being formed. International Diocese is providing materials that will be very helpful.

District Update - Bishop Perez is looking at ways people can communicate and exchange information across the diocese in different areas. Please offer any thoughts and input to help in this process. He is very open to dialogue and input.

Incarcerated & Migrants - Lake County Jail is doing well and has a good group of volunteers and feel supported. There is a vibrant LEAF ministry at St. Noel and Holy Angels, which is a tremendous blessing for the incarcerated and their families. In addition, the Juvenile Detention Center is going well in Lake County. Cuyahoga County Jail is difficult and is having issues - please pray for those ministers who continue to go there.

Migrant community - Tremendously courageous people coming. Parish Companions Group met last Saturday – this group helps people deal with deportation. 125 people have been trained to help prepare the families legally, financially, emotionally, and to prepare their children who are left behind. St. Mary, Painesville has come up with very innovative ways for kids to get dual citizenship - they have close to 1000 children who are in that situation.

Questions and Answers:

Regarding the clerical abuse support groups – Will there be something specifically offered for men only?

Answer: We can certainly offer that if there is a need. Contact Sr. Rita with input.

In midst of restructuring, has there been any talk about re-opening Pastoral Planning Office?

Answer: The Parish Life Secretariat is going to look at this, especially with the creation of the new position, Director of Mission and Discipleship.

How will the abuse retreats be promoted?

Answer: Posters, asking parishes to get the word out. There is no list of abused people – so the only method is to get the word out.

Are there programs available for people who need help learning English?

Answer: Yes, currently leading classes ... contact Sr. Rita for volunteer opportunities.

What is the status of the Church in the City program?

Answer: The Bishop asked that material be brought to senior staff meeting. He is currently looking at this and discussions will occur as to where we are going.

What kind of visioning in terms of parish/numbers of parishes/enrollment/priests?

Answer: Father Dan Schlegel and Sr. Rita Mary are going to parishes that are going to consolidate into two parishes having 1 priest. Nothing definitive and it's incomplete at this stage.

With recent shootings will there be a security plan for churches from the Bishop?

Answer: It's was discussed 6 months ago, and currently looking into how to implement.

Regarding parishes and restructuring, is there any talk about Parish Administrators/Parish Life Coordinators?

Answer: Yes, there is consideration for implementing this more in the future and the hope is that these return.

District Chair Report – Maureen Dowd

November's meeting details were included in all packets. Lake/Geauga District received many accolades for our activities, specifically our strategic planning initiatives that began last fall and continue to shape our future planning. Other districts are looking at adopting our process. The Bishop is looking at hiring professionals to help the Diocese look at priorities. While there were concerns posed to the Bishop by priests as to the costs, future information on this will be available in the spring. Priests also asked for more direction and vision from the Diocese, and the Bishop said when he first arrived his three priorities were Worship, Evangelization, and care of the needy. In addition, Bishop Perez is looking to hire a communications director and will have further information on this at the next chairperson's meeting.

St. Aloysius Little Free Library - Jean Fitzgerald

We are once again collecting books for this program. See handouts on your table. This international organization has distributed 60,000 books throughout the world. Bring a book and borrow a book. But mostly people don't bring a book, so more books are needed. Jean goes twice a week and the book inventory is low. St. Gabriel will be a collection site and books will be collected on June 3rd and June 24th.

Priests/personnel leaving

Fr. Jeremy to St. Ambrose, Fr. Clyde Foster awaiting assignment. Fr. Russ Rauscher to St. Francis Cabrini, Fr. Steve Spisak to St. Mary, Chardon/St Patrick, Fr. George Smiga to Holy Angels, Mary Kovach has retired from St. John Vianney after 22 years of service. Susan Kuchenbecker is leaving St. Gabriel to work part time as bookkeeper at St. Helen's. And there is a newly ordained deacon at Divine Word – Deacon John Grazia.

Cluster parishes, St. Bede and St. John Vianney are continuing their midsummer breakfast with social justice focus. This year the topic is keeping the senior years golden. This will be held July 20th, 8:30 to noon at St. John Vianney.

Fr. Greg Schaut – Hospitalized seniors need to be aware that they can get communion. Father passed out cards that have instructions on how to get communion to the homebound.

Prayer and Commissioning of the new District Chairperson, Gina Rensi from Divine Word.

Next District Meeting - September 9 (Location TBD)

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