



General Minutes from Lake/Geauga District Meeting March 11, 2019

Prayer/Lunch/Welcome from Fr. Dave Woost (We had 47 members attend)

New Parish Staff and Guests

- Father Peter Bang – St. Mary, Painesville
- Rachel Scott – Divine Word, Administrative Assistant
- Phil Siebert – St. Mary, Painesville, SVDP
- Bill Brandoni – St. Gabriel, SVDP

Saint Vincent de Paul Update – Anelize Nader, Program Director, Diocese of Cleveland & Deacon Ray Daul, **Communion of Saints Parish**

- Presented the origins and scope of SVDP - began in 1833 and strives to keep same construct – presenting the face of Christ, sending out people' in twos for home visit.
- The ministry is built around **three Pillars**: 1. Grow in holiness, 2. Fellowship with Others, 3. Service to others.
- The organization is in 150 countries with 800,000 members. There are 4400 conferences in the United States. Our Diocese has chapters in 63 parishes with 1200 members. There are 8 hunger centers managed by a diocesan council which feed 14,000 people a month. In addition, in collaboration with sponsorship by Saint John Vianney, there is the Lake Geauga Furniture Bank.

Blanket Sunday – over 4000 blankets are collected annually.

Back to School drive – last year toiletries were the focus rather than school supplies. From Lorain to Akron, the school drive was very successful.

Bridges Out of Poverty – Collaborating with Immaculate Conception Willoughby to start a program that helps people get back on their feet emotionally, spiritually, financially.

My loan program – free interest loan program with Ohio Catholic Federal Credit Union. Goal – increase credit score, help people through the financial situation, budget preparation assistance.

What is the SVDP Central Office Role? – Support with trainings, materials, resources. Field phone calls answering questions of volunteers. Distribute grants to conferences. In 2018, the disbursement was \$20,000. The SVDP organization is a separate entity from the Diocese, but does have office space in their building and is approved by the Bishop as a charitable organization in the Diocese.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry – Dobie Moser

- Updated the ministry scope of the office and what the diocese plans for future.
- Provided a resource sheet listing all the office offers. Talked about the parish responsibility, along with diocesan resources to equip parents as partners in the faith formation of their children.

Among the offerings of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office are:

- Strong Catholic Family program
- Camp Christopher retreats
- NCYC conference trips
- Assistance with hiring Youth Ministers in parishes
- Coalition for Young Adults
- Theology on Tap
- World Youth Day trip in 2022 to Lisbon, Portugal
- Organizing and overseeing CYO
- Organizing Four Courageous Conversations which deal with the clergy abuse scandal.

Questions:

- **How can we better integrate Youth ministry with CYO?** Have conversations with coaches and ministry leaders. Focusing with the coaches with regard to how this role is ministry.
- **How does your office communicate with Youth Ministers?** Give Dobie contact information to receive communications from his office.
- **Do youth ministers get together?** Yes. Think-tank has been established on direction of Bishop, to develop deeper collaboration. They met last Friday with the goal to look at best practices and come back with recommendations of what the diocese should do for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Targeting 6 to 9 months for recommendations.

Formation of District Subcommittees – Gina Rensi presented the results of the survey that was taken last meeting on Young Adult Ministry. Consensus was to hold more district wide activities. To that end, Gina asked people to sign up to participate in a subcommittee to look at these events.

Ministry Discipleship Conference – Maureen Dowd

Maureen asked attendees to complete handout with ideas for breakout topics and possible speakers for the Ministry Discipleship Conference for Fall, 2019. Parishes that offered to host – St. Noel, but they don't have any Saturdays available in October; St. John Vianney might work, although they have limited breakout space, or St. Mary, Chardon. Agenda committee will be in touch with those churches and announce a date soon. Date and location will be put on the website.

District Chairperson Meeting Update – Maureen Dowd

Meeting minutes are in folders. Agenda of meeting focused solely on the clergy abuse scandal. Because of time constraints and the length of conversations, no discussion on topics that the chairpersons brought happened. Maureen brought up some questions that the district had asked to be presented. Demographics question with respect to futuring and pastor and parochial vicar assignments, possibility of re-opening Pastoral Planning Office, Church in the City, were just a few things the Lake Geauga District are concerned about. Fr. Don Oleksiak said that most were being worked on by the bishop and/or think tanks. At our September Ministry Conference, the Bishop had mentioned to Maureen about helping him with best practices with regard to districts and how they can be healthy and vibrant resources for all parishes in the Diocese. Maureen is drafting a letter with these suggestions.

District Chairperson Role – Maureen

Maureen's six years as District Chairperson will conclude at our May meeting. Gina Rensi has offered her willingness to serve as the next chairperson. After silent prayer, a vote was taken and Gina was unanimously nominated. Commissioning will take place at our May meeting.

Announcements:

- Sister Rosemary is retiring from St. Edward/St. Lucy. Fr. John Burkley looking for new DRE.
- Alex Spenik is departing as seminary intern at St John Vianney. Attendees wished Alex well as this is his last meeting.
- Maureen Kraizel – St. John Vianney, provided flyer on Lake Geauga Senior Initiative for Loneliness (friendly caller program).
- Divorced and Separated – Fr. Smiga retiring from board, and Allison Capella joining board. Next support group is at St. Mary, Chardon, beginning 3/12/19. Board meeting is May 14.
- Lay Ecclesial Ministry Office – Information on the back table regarding Information Night, Annual Retreat in July, Benefit Dinner and Ursuline College courses.
- Catholic Commission of Lake and Geauga – Kelly designed a placemat for Rice Bowl with prayers. This is available online at Lake Geauga Website. Peace and Justice Dinner is 4/5. Peace and Justice Award winners are: **Camilla D'Andrea**, who leads the Mentor Parish Cluster's Social Justice Committee efforts to raise awareness on significant social justice issues and give voice to our neighbors most in need, and **Mike Sears** who helps organize and run the Lake Geauga Furniture Bank. The Furniture Bank under Mike's leadership has grown from serving 40 families a year to over 1000 families per year.

**Next Lake/Geauga District Meeting is May 13, 11:45 am
St. Bede - Mentor**

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