

## Cluster Meeting Notes – May 8, 2010

---

Cluster: St Bernard Church, St Joseph Church, St Maurice Church, St Matthew Church, Sacred Heart Church

Present:

Fr. Rick Ricard	St Bernard	<a href="mailto:fr.rick@saintbernardchurch.org">fr.rick@saintbernardchurch.org</a>
Deacon Michael Berstene	St Bernard	<a href="mailto:deacon.mike@saintbernardchurch.org">deacon.mike@saintbernardchurch.org</a>
Ray Lamy	St Bernard	<a href="mailto:thelamys@sbcglobal.net">thelamys@sbcglobal.net</a>
Mary Conway	St Bernard	<a href="mailto:mconway@snet.net">mconway@snet.net</a>
Fr. Krzysztof Drybka	St Joseph	<a href="mailto:kszysztof222@yahoo.com">kszysztof222@yahoo.com</a>
Angela Atwater	St Joseph	<a href="mailto:atawetera@comcast.net">atawetera@comcast.net</a>
Matt J. Stein	St Joseph	<a href="mailto:mmjs1009@att.net">mmjs1009@att.net</a>
Fr. Wojceich Pelczarski	St Maurice	<a href="mailto:solspl01@gmail.com">solspl01@gmail.com</a>
Joel Cohan	St Maurice	<a href="mailto:BoltonJoelC@att.net">BoltonJoelC@att.net</a>
Patricia Cinea	St Maurice	<a href="mailto:pcinea@sbcglobal.net">pcinea@sbcglobal.net</a>
Linda Wiley	St Maurice	<a href="mailto:ladwiley@aol.com">ladwiley@aol.com</a>
Fr. Jim Carini	St Matthew	<a href="mailto:jpaulcar@aol.com">jpaulcar@aol.com</a>
Paul Sanner	St Matthew	<a href="mailto:psanner@yahoo.com">psanner@yahoo.com</a>
Rella Bernabucci	Sacred Heart	<a href="mailto:rella@sacredheartchurch.net">rella@sacredheartchurch.net</a>
Edith Hilton	Sacred Heart	No e-Mail address

All parishes present.

### Initial discussions:

Saint Maurice, is working collaboratively with Sacred Heart on education, and with Saint Joseph on Advent and Lent penance services.

Ray Lamy outlined the 2011 St. Bernard/St. Matthew plan for clergy staffing, should a Pastor or Parochial Vicar be lost. (Today approximately 14 priests will retire shortly.)

Rella Bernabucci commented that it was a great shock when Sacred Heart and Saint Maurice were “yoked” ... and yet another shock when the parishes were later re-separated.. She continued that getting to know each other little by little is a positive strategy for breaking down the natural barriers between the parishes.

## **Collaborations :**

After much discussion, the following projects have been identified for serious discussion and developed for cluster collaboration.

1. RCIA - Collaborators: St Bernard, St Matthew and Sacred Heart. Fr Rick and Fr Jim to contact RCIA Collaboration Team leaders (Carl Maresh, St B. and Deacon Ron Freedman, St Matt). Maresh and Freedman will call together the parish RCIA teams, through the team leads, to initiate discussions. (Carl Maresh, Anna Osbeck, Deacon Ron Freedman, Jim Smart, Rella Bernabucci)
2. Faith formation – Collaborators: All interested parishes. Rella Bernabucci, Sacred Heart, will call together the Catechetical (Faith Formation) Parish Team leads, and begin talks on how to collaborate. Consider youth and adult Faith Formation.
3. Youth Group; (separate from Confirmation) Collaborators: all five parishes. (Each parish works with their youth differently. For some events, the parishes may all work together ... others, maybe not) Cluster Team Lead will be Tom Manning (St. Maurice). Other parish team leads are Hilary Brady, Bridget Thurston, Rella Bernabucci, and Fr. Marcin Mikulski (St. Joseph Parochial Vicar). Begin discussions.
4. Pulpit exchange, to promote visibility between the cluster parishes and the clergy. Fr Jim Carini will coordinate.
5. Saturday and Sunday coverages for Rockville Hospital (lay extraordinary ministers of holy communion) Collaborators: All cluster Parishes. Cluster Lead: Deacon Mike Berstene. Parish Team leads are coordinators of lay Eucharistic Ministers in each parish. Any volunteer ministers will have to be trained by the hospital.

Other areas discussed and tabled for the time being:

- Parish and Lenten missions,
- Penance services
- Other shared events

## **Clergy staffing:**

We concluded that contracts between orders and the Diocese complicates planning for cluster staffing across the cluster, The cluster MAY NOT be able to assume that contracted priests are available. Contracted priests may collaborate with other cluster parishes and may occasionally assist other parishes when such action is consistent with their contracted responsibilities.

Therefore, St. Bernard, St. Matthew and Sacred Heart team members will draft recommended staffing plans in the event of the loss of a priest(s) in one of those three parishes (Plan 1).

Upon completion of Plan 1, the team will consider the loss of a contracted priest, and how that can be addressed. (Plan 2).

**Next Meetings:**

The entire 5-parish cluster will meet next at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at Sacred Heart.

In the meantime, collaboration Leads will work their various projects and be ready to report progress back to the full cluster on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, the St. Bernard, St. Matthew and Sacred Heart teams will begin on working staffing recommendations and be ready to report back to the full cluster on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted  
Deacon Michael Berstene  
Ray Lamy

Cc: Sr. Elissa Rinere  
Fr. Stan Szczapa  
Matt O'Brien (St Matt)  
Francine Ouellette (St. Matt)