

Cluster Meeting Notes: Sacred Heart, St Bernard, St Matthew, St Joseph and St Maurice Churches – September 18, 2012

Present:

Fr. Stan Szcapa - Sacred Heart
Rella Bernabucci - Sacred Heart
Faith Hilton - Sacred Heart

Fr. Krzysztof Dybka - St Joseph
Angela Atwater - St Joseph
Matt Stein - St Joseph

Fr. Rick Ricard - St Bernard
Deacon Michael Berstene - St Bernard
Ray Lamy - St Bernard
Mary Conway - St Bernard

Fr. Wojciedi Pelerswoler - St Maurice
Thomas Manning - St Maurice
Patricia Cinea - St Maurice
Joel Cohan - St Maurice
Linda Wiley - St Maurice

Fr. Jim Carini - St Matthew
Matthew O'Brien - St Matthew
Paul Sanner - St Matthew

Cluster make-up

The Cluster Team concluded that the recommended cluster, for clergy staffing purposes, would be Sacred Heart, St. Bernard and St. Matthew. St. Joseph and St Maurice are not included for staffing purposes because those parishes are staffed, under contract, by "religious orders" and not Diocesan clergy.

Parish Staffing

Ray Lamy reviewed the draft recommendations for staffing changes and parish operations for Sacred Heart, St Bernard and St. Matthew, in the event of the loss of a Pastor or a parochial vicar. (See attached PowerPoint file).

Collaboration Leads reports:

Youth Ministry – Tom Manning

Youth Leaders from all parishes - have not met yet. It was concluded that much should be done in this area. Fr Rick suggested the cluster of five parishes consider jointly hiring a young, vibrant, youth ministry leader for the cluster. In discussion, some parishes said they could not afford their share of the cost. There was discussion on whether this would be support for separate programs, or a single "joint" program. Bottom line; what is best for the youth.

There are challenges with separation between Confirmation curriculum and Youth Ministry.

When youth ministry is connected to faith formation, it implies that youth ministers and faith formation would also be part of the collaboration process.

next steps: Youth ministers from cluster parishes will be invited to the next youth faith formation leadership team gathering. Rella to coordinate.

Faith Formation process collaboration – Rella Bernabucci
Today, different texts, different ages, different focus

Areas where collaboration is possible:

- Group community service
- Confirmation Retreat
- Youth Christmas pageant
- Stations of the Cross.
- Catechist certification process
- Religious goods vendors... around first communion /confirmation time.

Next steps: Rella will be setting up a late October meeting with the DRE's (aka Faith Formation Leaders), and inviting Youth Ministers to join-in, due to overlap.

Other collaboration ideas voiced:

RCIA collaboration is a desire over time.
Perhaps formation with rites in each parish.

Retreat collaboration: ACTS should be deanery organized. From the perspective of the cluster, there is more to be gained by working together than any loss of parish identity.

Parish communication

The question was raised, at what point do we make the parishes aware of the activities of the Cluster Team? The concern is that many, if not most, parishioners are not seriously aware of the pending, acute priest shortage. At a minimum, cluster meetings and topics discussed should be kept "on the radar"..

Next steps: All parishes should include a periodic *common* bannered section of their weekend bulletin entitled "Cluster News". The same news should be disseminated at all parishes.

All parishes should share links to parishes and shared activity notices.

The goal is to raise the visibility of cluster activities and the pastoral planning process.

Next steps for the Cluster Team.

1. Send these meeting notes with the attached “staffing” PowerPoint presentation to Sister Elissa. Ask for her recommendations as to “next steps”
2. Move forward on collaboration efforts we have launched
3. Cluster Team meet again as appropriate

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Lamy, St Bernard Cluster Team member