



Genesis Vicariate Pastoral Council

TO SHARE CHRIST IN AND THROUGH THE URBAN CHURCH

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SEPTEMBER 26, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Genesis Vicariate Pastoral Council
"Together In Faith" Phase II Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

AGENDA:

1. **Opening Prayer – Explanation of Meeting**
2. **Group Discussion**
3. **Meeting Wrap-up**
4. **Preparation for Next Month's Meeting**

OPENING PRAYER – EXPLANATION OF MEETING

Alton opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and Msgr. LeFevre led the group in a prayer. The members then exchanged peace among each other.

The meeting began with an explanation of tonight's meeting and agenda.

We have received all of the APC responses to our recommendations. The plan for the evening is to work in our planning groups and try to get through questions 1-3 and respond to what the APC has commented on. We may have already uncovered the information they are looking for in our previous meetings. When the APC reviewed our recommendations, they needed more detailed information.

What we are finding is that a lot of our answers were not crafted with the 5 Pastoral Plans in mind. We need to look at those to see how they fit in. The summary sheet will help us put the plan together. By the end of the 1st meeting in November, we will have crafted our plan. We'll review how the APC has responded; there will be some information from their email such as who, what, where, when, how, why, etc. The answers don't need to be completed in the final format until the 1st meeting in November (or before if possible).

Every Bishop in every region has agreed to share the Eucharist with us at our final meeting for the year. Bishop Hanchon has not confirmed the date as of yet; Alton has sent him the information – Mass will be at 6:30 pm and the meeting will go until its regular stopping time at 9:00 pm.

Last week we were supposed to be reviewing all of the Pastoral Plans to make sure that we understood what they contained. This information was introduced because it will make our thinking clearer. The APC reviewers are from the Central Region doing the review of only Central Region planning groups – they're not reviewing their own plans. When they're responding, it's without the basic information. They don't want to make a suggestion without a clear understanding or without having a lot of good detail behind it. We were under the impression they wanted us to give concise answers.

The final plan hasn't been drafted yet, but it will be around these things; for example: Evangelization – does your parish have a committee? A response could be "As a group, we're going to create an Evangelization team and start it in 2012; the parishes involved will be ...; it will be funded by ..." That's what the plan is going to look like. When they see this plan and you want to do "X" it's all supported and everything is addressed.

Initially it was thought that the APC responses would be to the group by the first meeting. One issue in reviewing all of the plans in the AOD was that we did the survey on the TIF through June and it came back that 50% felt everything was ok, but the timing was rushed. We didn't get the clarity on answering the questions talking about the APC plans. They decided to take the meetings from September through November for us to focus on and to revisit all of the 6 Pastoral Plans (including vocations) to make sure that we fully understand it and how they will fit into our actual plans.

Where we are now; the 1st meeting we were to review the 6 recommendations and tonight we have what the APC said in response to what we submitted. We need to focus on the questions the APC has asked and then craft our plan.

Tonight we'll be working in planning groups. The responses are going to be done at a planning group level, not a parish level. We'll only be looking at questions 1-3 tonight. This does not have to be finished tonight, but you really need to start the discussion and there will be other homework. We're being asked to respond to where, what, when and how we're going to do our plans for questions 1-3 and respond to the questions that they're asking with specific detailed information. What we have to do may not be as much as it looks like, as a lot of this was already discussed. The APC didn't ask for specifics when we first started on this process and we just need to bring the details already discussed back to the surface.

When going through the recommendations, there may have been 2 APC reviewers reviewing the documents and they both may have asked the same questions. You'll want to make sure your answers fit into the 6 Pastoral Plans and vocations.

We need to focus on the questions the APC has asked; look at your response; read what the APC said; and then see what extra information you need to provide them with.

The planning group gathered at individual tables at 7:00 pm, each discussing one of the 3 questions.

GROUP DISCUSSION

At 8:15 the group reconvened and Alton reminded us that we don't have to have the final responses tonight. Before the next meeting we're to look at questions 4 and 5; they're tough questions. You'll want to read the question first; look how you responded and look at what the APC has said. We have to make the tough calls to move forward. Within the next couple of weeks, hopefully you'll get to hear some comments from the Archbishop.

The Archbishop cited that a lot of things we're doing have been dated back to the 1920's - 1940's and they're based on the models of the 20's and 40's. His analogy is what the auto companies had to do in regards to growth, restructuring, etc. We're not GM; we're a faith-based organization. We can't continue to do the things we used to do and expect to have different results.

We need to begin to think 'outside the box'. Just as an example; people are advocating getting a storefront to do outreach from; Alton's idea would be doing a "mobile outreach" which would give a greater opportunity and greater latitude. We don't know what the plan from the City is going to be yet. If you invest in brick and mortar in a certain area and the City changes the area they're developing, you would be stuck where you are. If you're mobile you can go where you need to go.

Questions 4 and 5 are tough questions; we're not looking for them to be completed, but please get done as much as possible. Look at how you're set up in your planning groups; be collaborative, look at what we're doing well and look forward. Put stakes in the ground of when you'd like things to start happening, it will give you momentum. You always want to go back to the 6 areas of Pastoral Planning to make sure you address these areas when you make your plans.

MEETING WRAP-UP

We lost 2 members of St. Benedict's last week and one of them was a VPC representative, Betty Crawford. We need to pray for them to be uplifted, as well as for their community and for the staff that has to minister to their community.

Brian, a parishioner of St. Florian, who is also our APC representative, was at the meeting. He stated that the people looking over this vicariate's plans have no idea of what our vicariate is like. All they know is what they read about or see in the news. They are not from the City and don't know our history, etc. That's why they're asking us to be specific.

They feel it's best that someone from outside our Vicariate overlook the planning, as they won't be biased in any way. The APC isn't going to make any decisions; they're going to look at what we present, examine that plan for the Archbishop and then present it to him. The APC is the consultative body for the Archbishop – a 'clearinghouse' for the information.

Brian emphasized that they don't know the specifics of our parishes. If there's a term they don't understand they're going to come back to us for clarification.

A few members critiqued the process and requested Brian to go back to the APC with suggestions and clarifications about our parishes and their situations.

Alton noted that this is the first time in the history of the AOD that planning to any degree has been done at this level looking this far forward. We need to go forward from here; we have an opportunity to have a hand in our own destiny. The APC isn't going to understand our position unless we provide them with all of the details. It's not just our vicariate or region; all 40 planning groups are going through the same thing.

Our next meeting is October 10th. If we need to meet in November, it will be on the 14th. The following week the plans need to go back to the APC. They have a final meeting with the Archbishop on November 30th.

Fr. Frankowski of St. Florian said the closing prayer. The meeting closed at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Archibald
Genesis VPC Recording Secretary

DOCUMENT DOWNLOAD LINKS

[APC PLANS & FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS \(Questions 1-9\)](#)

The following are the reference files for the APC Plans & Final Recommendations:

[BASIC ASSUMPTIONS](#)

[REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS OF A PRIEST](#)

[APC YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY SUBCOMMITTEE](#)

[LEADERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE](#)

[STEWARDSHIP & ADMINISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE](#)

[CHRISTIAN SERVICE & OUTREACH](#)

[EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS](#)