

Chairman's Report:

The January Ministry Council meeting was cancelled to allow the council members to attend Bishop Brom's Pastoral Visit and talk about the Diocesan abuse lawsuit.

Important facts from that talk of particular significance to San Rafael parishioners include:

That parish funds; including those funds on deposit with the diocese, i.e. building funds, etc., are safe from attachment.

Parish funds are deemed separate from Diocese funds by both Canon and US civil law and cannot be used to pay lawsuit claims.

The All Ministries Retreat held at the end of the first week of January was a great success. Comments are attached below.

Owing to the Pastoral Visit, we needed to re-schedule our study of the Pastoral Priorities. Our March meeting reading assignment for discussion is now Priority IV, 'Building a Culture of Life'; Priority V, 'Engaging Youth & Young adults'; and Priority VII, 'Embracing Cultural Diversity'. Our May reading assignment will be Priority II, 'Fostering Evangelization & Systemic Catechesis for All Ages'; Priority III, 'Strengthening Marriage & Family Life'; and Priority VI, 'Promoting Priestly & Religious Vocations'.

The March Ministry Council meeting is scheduled for St. Patrick's Day, Monday, 17th March, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 7.

COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES OF MINISTRIES RETREAT JANUARY 4 & 5, 2008

INTRODUCTION:

Below are the comments received from attendees of our first, hopefully annual, all ministries retreat.

Sister Michele and her team are to be commended for their hard work planning, organizing and running this extremely meaningful and spiritual event. Thanks to her also for taking the time to compile these comments so that we may all benefit from them.

I have taken the liberty of adding a few relevant comments to a few of the items below. These comments are for those items that will be acted upon in some way in the immediate future, or have been addressed already. My comments are in italics simply for identification.

SUMMARY:

Several suggestions seemed to appear over and over in the comments:

1. Use the parish website as a tool to provide information about the activities/calendar of all the ministries.
This has been suggested on a number of previous occasions. Unfortunately, many ministries are not forthcoming with their activities calendar, or their schedules change at short notice.
2. Post Parish Ministry Committee minutes on the website. Also post them on the bulletin board outside church.
This has been done for the past three years.
3. Better inter-ministry communication.
One parishioner pointed out that the names and telephone numbers of all the ministry heads are in the bulletin. The same parishioner offered that there is nothing preventing one ministry leader to call another to request or offer help for an event or activity.
4. Hold this retreat annually.
I fully agree. We should hold an all ministries retreat each year. We should also have at least one all ministries meeting each year. The question is; will you attend?
5. Since most people read bulletin, spotlight one ministry every Sunday with a description of their purpose. This could be provided by leader of each ministry to the office. Possibly 1x month have a little presentation at the masses of the ministry spotlighted in the bulletin.
This too, as has re-establishing the Ministry Fair, has been suggested on numerous previous occasions and comes up each year at a Ministry Council meeting. The parish quit holding the Ministry Fair because of a lack of participation by a number of ministries and poor attendance. Having ministry presentations during Mass has been rejected as it is believed by some that it will detract from the spirit of worship. During Lent, we will begin offering a brief description and contact details in the weekly bulletin for individual ministries.
6. Liked finding out about the mission of other ministries.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO YOUR MINISTRY?

WHAT GIFT DOES YOUR MINISTRY BRING TO THE PARISH COMMUNITY?

- The joy of serving the homebound, the elderly and the sick
- Resurrection Choir brings comfort to grieving family
- Way to give something back
- Learning about ministry lead to active participation
- RCIA – wanted to know more herself
- Conversion experience thru Bishop's talks on TV

- A calling – relationship one-to-one, be available
- Provide fellowship to others
- Awareness of dignity of life, help Life Choices
- Provide an environment where it is acceptable to be young person in church
- Getting involved – lecturing without saying anything thru show of love
- Provide healing to others, showing acceptance
- To get acquainted with others in the parish
- Provide support and peace of mind to those in distress
- Bring the Lord to homebound and make them feel they are part of parish

**HOW CAN YOU INCREASE FAITH FORMATION IN YOUR MINISTRY?
HOW CAN WE PROMOTE COMMUNICATION AMONG MINISTRIES?**

- Re-establish the annual Ministry Fair and elaborate with in church rite as a “Ministries Sunday”. (*See item 5 above*)
- Have a Ministry Fair after a 5:00 p.m. mass with a Pizza night
- Encourage relationships with ministries that are similar to avoid conflicts
- Encourage members of one ministry to join (or find out about) another ministry. Recommend cross-ministry service projects.
- Need activities for youth that include dance, basketball, essay contests, etc. (*These are amongst the planned uses for the new Pastoral Centre when it is built. Currently, the K of C holds essay, basketball free throw & soccer contests each year.*)
- Use the forum of Coffee & Donuts to form small groups to listen to and learn from tapes of Michael Coumbre.
- Establish an Ecumenical Choir
- Integrate ethnic groups and invite Guatemalans to join ministries (choir)?
- Continue to offer opportunities to learn and broaden our knowledge and understanding of our faith
- Put a questionnaire in church bulletin (or in pews) itemizing all possible areas parishioner could help or participate in. Check off interests and drop in box in back of church. Make this brochure part of new member information packet. (*The questionnaire was suggested over 7 years ago. New parishioners do receive ministry info in their packets.*)
- Someone speak from the altar before mass about the questionnaire when they remind parishioners to read the bulletin.
- Use the parish website to give 3-month recap of completed activities and 3-month calendar of what’s coming. (*See item 1 above.*)
- Post info on new parishioners to website, including e-mail address (if possible) and any ministry interests they have. (*The website contains ministry info. The website is also in the process of being completely re-done.*)
- List in bulletin, names of deceased and very brief statement about them
- Formation of informal group discussion after mass of the “Question of the Week”. (*GREAT IDEA!*)

- Short gathering of lectures and EM's to pray together before and after assigned mass.
- Invite all ministry boards to attend at least one Parish Ministry Committee meeting each year to hear summation of activities of the year. (*See item 4 above.*)
- DEMONSTRATE LOVE IN ACTION, THRU ACTION!

Upcoming Music Ministry Events/Liturgies:

1) Sunday, March 2 (4pm)

La Jolla Symphony Chorus will perform Rachmaninoff's *Vespers*, under the direction of Dr. David Chase. Tickets will be available from La Jolla Symphony/Chorus online, or at the Parish Office or at the door the day of the concert.

2) Friday, March 7 (7pm)

Our Parish Music Ministry will present the *Lenten Contemplative Rosary: Sorrowful Mysteries* and all are invited to share in this beautiful sung setting of the Rosary which will feature icons and music reflecting the Last Days of our Savior.

3) Wednesday, March 19 (7pm)

The Traditional Choir will perform for our Annual Observance of Tenebrae, this year joined by the Pastors and choir members from Lutheran Church of the Incarnation and St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church. This sung setting of Tenebrae, *Shadows*, is contemporary in nature and also features Scripture Readings.

4) Our Parish Choirs will provide the music of Holy Week and Easter as they do each year. This year, however, we are asked to provide music for two additional Masses as the 9am and 10:30am liturgies in the church will be duplicated at those times in the Parish Center.

That's it until after Easter!...

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HOSPITALITY

01/21/08

1. **GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER**

The next GWCTD event will be held in the Parish Center on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at 6:30 PM.

Sign ups for this event will be held the week-end of 01.26 and 01.27.08

2. **SAN RAFAEL TRAVEL GROUP**

The San Rafael Travel Group is now under Hospitality.