

Cumberland/York Counties Coordinators Association

January 14, 2010

MINUTES

Members in Attendance: see list

Welcome: The group was welcomed by Larry Guertin.

Opening Prayer: offered by Ann Peacock which included an interactive prayer entitled “Developing a Vision of Ministry” and the song “I Will Follow Him” by Little Peggy March.

Secretary’s Report: December Minutes Accepted. Suggestion made to format Minutes in Word 2003 prior to mailing out. Some members do not have systems capable of opening documents in later formats.

Treasurer’s Report: Rose handed out a copy of our financial standing (*see attached.*) Rose reported that there was no activity in December and that there are dues in our account amounting to \$1100 for presenters and retreats.

Introductions:

- Robert Wullwebber – Faith Formation Outreach Coordinator
- Mike Lavigne
 - A coordinator for the Youth and Young Adult ministries search may soon be completed, awaiting a response in the next day or two.
 - Junior High Gathering will be held at St. Max’s
 - Jan 30 “Winter Jam” Catholic music: contact Ann Connolly for tickets
 - Apr 9-11 Jackie Francois will be the headliner at Convention; Convention theme planning in process - should have theme by next week.
 - Apr 30 – May 1 Theology of the Body training: information coming in 2-3 wks.
 - Fri: Advanced TOB: deeper for those with experience
 - Sat: Marriage, Single Life, Teaching Teens
 - Initiation: Pastoral Planning for next year:
 - Revision to Certifications: Leadership & Catechists
 - Annual & Bi-Annual Faith Formation Conference
 - Presenters brought in
 - Tracks to choose from
 - One location for all, opportunity to network and pray together
 - Question: time of year. All 4 Boards will give input at next formal committee meeting. (?-1st Choice: October ?-2nd Choice: March)
 - Retreats for all levels: Joe Mailhot is working with parishes planning Intentional Retreats
 - Catechist Ministry Day: Southern area successful, the remainder of the state not as successful. Premise is good; would video conferencing be of benefit? If Southern area chooses to continue, Diocese will support effort.
 - Discussion: should we consider inviting those within One Hour’s drive to this groups monthly gathering? Extend invite as far as Augusta? “Cumberland invited York 10-11 yrs ago.”
 - General Discussion: Consensus “Yes”, Larry will get contact information.

Paul introduced Fr. Bob Vaillancourt, Diocesan Director of Vocations

~ Vocations & Catechetics ~

Fr. Bob – brief self intro -Youth Director late 80's / early 90's

- “What are your needs? I have lots of stuff”
 - Kathy W:
 - Talk to children about Vocations. We don't have to wait until their older.
 - Identify the role of Pastoral Associate to be a woman – important to parish life
 - Open Lay Ministry as a calling
 - Kathy S:
 - Need to strengthen marriage as a vocation – all works to the Glory of God
 - Our kids need more connection with priests

Fr. Bob:

- Diocesan Office does all kinds of awareness even for lay ministry.
- Father has Registered for Career Day at UMO, Diocese of Portland table material for lay ministry “can't wait!”
- Year for Priest's – “to grow in holiness”
 - Good priest: fair parish
 - Holy priest: growth in parish holiness
- Traveling to parishes to preach about vocations – however Father needs to be *invited* by Pastors
- 70 men of all ages on Vocations mailing list, 17 meet on a monthly basis for prayer and discernment; 6 asked for the application form – possible Fall?? “Would be very happy to see them go in.”
- “I'm having a ball; I believe this is where God want me to be.”

Fr. Bob on Vocations:

“Until you know deep inside that Jesus thirsts for you...it all starts within the heart. God hungers for us – He knows me, calls me by name.” ...living with great joy – Head & Heart.

- All Catechesis is oriented towards prayer and worship. Catechesis must lead to Jesus Christ; lead us to heart of what we do.
- What tools do we give to the kids to know the Lord?
 - Prayer: “Stop talking *but Teach me* to pray.”
 - We can't look at vocations until we Pray!
 - How are we teaching our youth to be still? “Listen to the Voice of God”
 - **All Vocations are “calls” from God – we must listen to “hear.”**
 - “Take Time” in this world of noise: “Be Still, Be Quiet”
 - In the midst of wounded-ness is our God
 - Go before the Blessed Sacrament to be still there.
 - Vocations need to start with prayer – having an awareness of being *Loved by God*.
 - School Visits – “having a ball”
 - “My parents took time to reveal the face of God” – story about childhood bullying and parents message “Bobby, you are so deeply loved by God – fiercely, deeply... God loves you.” – “He has first loved me!”
 - Most people don't know this. It is in the stillness that we will come to know – We **MUST** teach our kids to be still – teach them “to give it to the Lord” when distracted.
 - **Prayer has everything to do with Life.**
 - Story of Trent & Greg – “Daddy's chest”- sees his daddy and needs no words.
 - “That's” the relationship we need to give our kids – to lay their head on their daddy's chest. (Heavenly Fathers' chest)
 - ◇ Invite Catechists to share their prayer life.

- ◇ Park them in front of the Blessed Sacrament.
- ◇ Teach techniques of prayer.
- ◇ Share what works for you.
- ◇ Awaken faith in our Kids.
- Practical: 1
 - ◇ We have the power to bless each other.
 - ◇ Parents everyday: “I bless you, in the name of the Father,... and kids in turn bless their parents (story of 14 yr old Peter who was too cool to bless anyone, later turns around and goes to parents room: “Mom, Dad, ‘I bless you...’ – today He has 2 kids and blesses them!)
- Practical: 2
 - ◇ Invite kids to have their own prayer corners.
 - ◇ Encourage them to place a statue, open bible in their bedroom, living rm., play rm. And to “go there.” Give them the tools of awareness.
 - ◇ Teach and Encourage prayer as a family.

National Vocations Awareness Week:

Did you receive prayer kits?

- Some great Catechesis, grade level projects
- Use permit #5 as acknowledgement on anything you use
- Family Page to be brought home
- “good stuff” to use throughout the year; not necessarily the priesthood
- Share gifts & talents

Tools:

- **St. Therese Vocation Society (pamphlets) for Children**
St. Therese longed for the Lord; she couldn’t wait for her First Communion.
- Communion Catechesis
“AWE”
“Lord, I want to know your will...and the grace to do it.”
 - ◇ Teach children the gift in praying for their personal vocation at Communion time.
 - As society member make 3 Promises:
 - Pray for Vocations
 - Pray for Priests and Religious of our own Diocese
 - Pray about what He wants them to do. “It’s a gift to ask that question early – to have the awareness of asking God.
 - ◇ Tear off gets sent to Fr. Bob and he sends them a Birthday card.
 - ◇ “We will send you as many as you need!”
- **Article: 7 steps to great Religion Classes** – listing of things that you can do for Vocations Awareness.
- **Vocations Icon – St. John Vianney** – sign up to take home. Suggestion: kids invite other kids to meet at 6:00pm at my house.
- **DVD “Fishers of Men”** Story \$10,000 to create - 60 priests responded (2 DVD’s) – very inspiring – available from Vocations office – parish priests each were given a copy
- **Vocations Holy Cards (2)**

- **St. Therese Vocation Society** (pamphlets) **for Adults** available as well. Give to the elderly, shuts-ins, adults, parents. Invite them to offer their sacrifices and sufferings for Vocations. (“*Offer it Up!*”)

Vocations Committee available:

to work with existing commissions –
Religious Ed, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Social Justice & Peace and
to give Evenings of Reflections.

- Invite Religious Sister to talk about their story, their work, how God fits in.
- Invite your Elderly to share their stories of how God fits in.
(“Memere” story: Birthday Interview of 95 yr old grandmother –
“Today I’m gonna meet my mother.” – the video is a lasting treasure)

PLAY: “St. John Mary Vianney” by Leonardo DePhillipis who is a professional actor and has devoted his acting to the Catholic Church will be in this diocese at 5 locations: (free will offering)

April 6 UM, Fort Kent
April 7 St. Mary’s, Bangor
April 8 St. Joseph’s, Biddeford
April 9 McAuley High School, Portland
April 10 Franco-American Center, Lewiston

RESOURCE TABLE: Invitation extended to take as much as you need and if you need more, let the Vocations office know and they will mail more. “Fishers of Men” DVD’s are available for sale.

FEB 5,6,7 @ MJSC, Seniors in High School and older come together to talk, discuss proper and effective discernment – keeping options open.

ST. ANDREW DINNERS: hosted by Fr. Bob & Bishop Malone. Pastors are invited to identify and invite young men (Freshman year and older) to evening prayer, dinner and during the evening priests share their personal Vocations stories and afford the young men the opportunity to ask questions. (*St Andrew first met Jesus and went to Peter and said, “You gotta meet this guy.”*)

JOURNEY RETREAT: organized by Fr. Bob’s office

RELIC MEDAL: of St. John Mary Vianney given to a Coordinator – explanation: 3 albs and 2 shirts of St. John Mary Vianney were given to the Carmelite Sisters to cut up for these relics. All priests were given one at their Institute.

Thank You extended to Fr. Bob.

Closing Prayer offered by Larry Guertin

Respectfully submitted by: Edith Forst