



## General Minutes from Lake/Geauga District Meeting January 11, 2016

**Prayer/Lunch/Welcome (We had 50 members attend)**

### **Welcome Special Guests**

Jeanne Marie Miles – Director of the Diocesan Office of Worship  
Colleen Royer –Administrative Assistant for the Pastoral Ministry Office  
Ann Clark – Director of Catholic Action Commission of Lorain CCHD

### **Staff Changes/News**

St. John Vianney – Elizabeth Field will be Director of Faith Formation until the summer, and will assist in helping hire a permanent person. Father Clyde Foster came just before Christmas. Seminarian Peter joined us as well.

### **Welcome to Ann Clark – Director of Catholic Action Commission of Lorain County CCHD**

Catholic Campaign for Human Development is offering grants for parishes to use to help those in our communities. This is the time when the grant cycle is developing and Ann presented information on ways to apply for grants thru the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. A portion (25%) of monies collected at Diocesan-wide Thanksgiving collections are available for parishes to apply for grants that follow under the organization's umbrella. Ann gave examples of how parishes and organizations have utilized these grant monies in the past to set up programs to assist those in need. Deadline for applications is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Announcements:**

#### **Adult Confirmation – Fr. Ed Suszynski**

Begins Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and registration forms were distributed at the last District meeting. See Father Ed or Father Roach if more are needed. So far there are 5 adults registered for this collaborative effort. Registrations can still be taken, so please get them as soon as you can so we can be prepared with enough materials. The series is 5 Sundays in a row with five different topics from 1:30 to 2:45 pm at St. John Vianney.

#### **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Celtic Weekend at St. John Vianney – Mary Kovach**

Fliers were distributed in packets as well as bulletin paragraphs for parishes to publish.

#### **A Morning with Eve Tushnet – Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., St. John Vianney**

Sponsored by the St. John Vianney Parish Support Group for Families and Friends of Gay and Lesbian Catholics and the Cleveland Diocesan Gay and Family ministry. Topic is what it's like to be a lesbian with an active and vibrant Catholic faith.

**Dr. John Wood (associate of Matthew Kelly) from Dynamic Catholic – cohosted by St. Gabriel and St. Cyprian**

Presentation will be March 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 1:30 at St. Gabriel. Tickets are \$20 and are available at either St. Cyprian or St. Gabriel.

**Tetelestai – St. Mary Painesville**

Performances are February 12 at 8 pm, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm, and February 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at St. Mary's in Painesville.

**District Electronic Communications/District Resource Book – Allison Capella**

This valuable tool is used as a resource for all Lake Geauga Parishes and contains sacramental dates, faith formation events with dates, and other pertinent information as well as parish staff listings for all in the Lake and Geauga District. You can always access by utilizing the link that is provided in district emails. Keep in mind this is a live document, and doesn't need saved as you would a Word document. Once a change is made, then it is changed for all to see. You can download and print the book, keeping in mind that if a change is made by another parish then you will not have the latest information.

**Dr. Petroc Willey Parish Mission at Our Lady of Mount Carmel – March 6-9**

"The Catechism and Mercy" is the topic of Dr. Willey's Mission. Begins with 7 pm mass and talk immediately following.

**Year of Mercy (began in December) Diocesan Materials – Jeanne Marie Miles**

The Diocesan website does have a Year of Mercy page – and if you scroll down to the bottom you can find tri-fold brochures, prayer cards, and a couple of other things are available. The parish packets are ready to go with the exception of the banners which were misprinted. There are decisions being made as to how to proceed, and until that is resolved, the packets mailing will be held off. Hopefully next week the packets will be mailed out. Bulletin inserts are being created and should be available by the end of January. Expect them once a month. A question was posed by Laurie Jurecki asking for the materials that are ready and correct to be mailed rather than waiting for the banner issue to be resolved so they can be utilized by the parishes. Jeanne will speak with those making the banner printing decisions and see where that stands.

**Year of Mercy Group Discussion – Maureen Dowd**

Resources were in your District parish packets outlining opportunities to promote this important initiative that has been asked of us by Pope Francis. They are available from the Vatican website or the Year of Mercy Vatican website for free downloads.

Discussed ways parishes are currently celebrating the Year of Mercy, and visioning ideas that we can continue to get at the heart of spreading Mercy as we have been asked to by our Pope. As an example, Maureen shared Fr. Woost's way of spreading mercy by mailing a letter to each of his parishioners offering a welcome and an apology if there is a hurt that is keeping someone away from the Church.

## **Table Discussion – 20 minutes**

### **Report out on Table Discussions – Fr. Ed**

Each table reported their ideas on promoting the Year of Mercy. Some were ideas currently being implemented, and others were future ways of further being a face of Mercy in the world.

- Scrolls of Mercy placed on a tree and people could take one and perform that act throughout the year
- Read the book “The Church of Mercy” by Pope Francis and holding discussion groups
- Prepare atmosphere and homilies to be welcoming to all during funerals and weddings
- Utilize Bulletins and website
- Pilgrimage to Door of Mercy at the Cathedral
- Hold an essay contest for school students
- Ring bells at 3 pm daily
- Highlight stories and acts of Mercy intentionally
- Focus on Days of Service and highlight the Mercy connections
- Letters to Parishioners
- Divine Mercy Sunday
- Pay it Forward program with School and PSR
- Utilize Vatican website materials
- Tap into Sister Rita Mary for ways to help refugees and the incarcerated
- Hold confessions after Sunday Masses
- Hold Youth Retreats and define specifically what Mercy means and is for our young people
- Utilize liturgical music, hymn specifically set aside for this year

### **Ministry Development Conference – Maureen Dowd**

This will be repeated at St. Mary in Chardon on Saturday, April 9th. Reminder this is not a “how-to” workshop, but one that delves into how to deepen Discipleship. Two breakouts, because of great attendance, will not repeat – the Priest/Deacons and the Business Managers. Ten brochures and a poster were included in each packet. At our March District Meeting, we will discuss how to proceed with the next two workshops in the Fall of '16 and Spring of '17. Please bring ideas.

### **District Outreach to Inner City Parishes – Laurie Jurecki**

This important leg of our District is a good thing to move forward with. It was suggested that we contact inner city parishes to learn ways to support and assist. Laurie did speak with Fr. Mark Hobson at St. Aloysius and his recommendation was that a small focus group from each District be created (One from Urban East Side District and one from Lake Geauga District) and begin to have a conversation about how we might stand together in aid to those in the urban areas.

### **District Chair Report – Maureen Dowd**

District Chairpersons Meeting Minutes were included in each packet. Summary included a request from District Chairpersons to the Bishop’s office that information be distributed in a timelier manner. Year of

Mercy and voting information were two areas used as examples. In addition, it was discussed that there be training for parish secretaries to help them deal with front line issues. The feedback was that it might not be as timely as the parishes might like, so we could take a look at this as a District to provide for the parish secretaries in our Ministry Workshops next year.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **Divorced and Separated – Father Fred Pausche**

The support group at St. Mary's in Chardon has concluded. There were 11 participants. The Bridge for the Holidays was a good success, and helpful for folks. Next board meeting is February 16<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming 8-week support group will take place at St. Noel beginning January 19<sup>th</sup>. Please get the word out and encourage people to attend. Contact Karen Jubeck at St. Gabriel and she will make sure they are connected to the support group at St. Noel.

##### **Catholic Charities – Jim Clements**

Fliers distributed outline the homeless situation in Geauga County. There is no homeless shelter in Geauga County, and a local subpar motel is being utilized. A task force – The Homeless Coalition – is being formed from various churches and law enforcement to work on solving the problem. Lake County's Project Hope began with a similar group initiative, so if you are interested in being a part, contact Jim.

##### **Social Action Office – Kelly Davis**

2016 World Day of Migrants and Refugees will have a special Mass on January 24<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael the Archangel on Scranton Road in Cleveland. Bishop Lennon will preside at this Mass which includes many different languages. Reception after featuring foods from around the world. Flier distributed in packets.

**Next Lake/Geauga District Meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup>  
11:45 am – St. Gabriel**

Maureen D. Dowd  
St. Gabriel Church  
Pastoral Associate  
Lake Geauga District Chairperson  
9925 Johnnycake Ridge Rd.  
Concord Township, Ohio 44060  
(440) 352-8282  
[mdowd@st-gabriel.org](mailto:mdowd@st-gabriel.org)