

Dear All,

Oct. 29, 2010

Follow-up notes from the meeting of Bp. Rozanski and the Cluster Committee on Oct. 28th.

We discussed:

1. Bp. Mitch described the priest shortage as it will happen in the next 15 years: From 150 to 100 priests available for parish ministry. He underlined how we don't have a lot of extra priests out there in the diocese who are in special ministries, and he also indicated that getting priests from overseas is sometimes problematic for various reasons: So that is not a perfect solution either.
2. The committee then talked about how the three parishes of South County could better work together.
 - a. Those at the meeting mentioned that we **already** do the following together:
 - i. Celebration of Youth Confirmation by the bishop (though not the actual preparation programs for the youth),
 - ii. combined Penance Service this Advent.
 - iii. OLPH and HF have combined RCIA and all three parishes do an RCIA "pilgrimage" to the Franciscan Monastery in DC each year.
 - iv. Pulpit Swaps: October pulpit swap went well. The next pulpit swap will be Feb. 5-6.
 - b. Those at the meeting discussed what we **COULD** do together in the future:
 - i. Vocation promotion.
 - ii. Get the Youth Ministry leaders from each parish to work more together.
 - iii. Regional Young Adult Ministry.
 - iv. Regional Support ministry for the bereaved.
 - v. Divorced, Separated and Widowed Ministry.
 - vi. Regional Adult Ed events: To advertise for one another's events.
3. The committee then discussed **REGIONAL IDEAS ABOUT BULLETIN AND WEBSITE:**
 - a. **BULLETIN:** It was mentioned that a Cluster Team member had seen a bulletin for five clustered parishes in Maine where all five parishes were getting the same bulletin with one another's events all in the same bulletin. Food for thought and something to discuss at the next meeting: How can we better advertise one another's events?
 - b. **WEBSITE:** We are looking to move forward with the Cluster Website. For the January meeting, we are looking for someone from each parish to contact Dick about working on the "Cluster Website."
4. **FUTURE DATES:**
 - a. **CLUSTER COMMITTEE MEETING:** Thurs Jan. 6 from 6p – 8p at OLOS.
 - i. Please invite your Cluster Team: We are looking for, now, the priest and deacon from each parish, another staff member from each parish, and ONE

PARISHIONER from each parish BESIDES (so, four from each parish) to be on the team.

- ii. We are looking for someone from each parish to contact Dick at ww3r.maio@gmail.com about working on the “Cluster Website.” *Dick, if you hear from these people and are able to make a report and series of recommendations to be accepted by the Cluster Committee on Jan. 6 in terms of WHAT SHOULD GO INTO THE CLUSTER WEBSITE and how we link that website to the three individual parish websites, that would be GREAT. Let’s not delay if we don’t have to.*
 - iii. Let’s pick out someone to be the SECRETARY for the next meeting and to type up the notes for the next meeting.
 - iv. All three parishes need to keep records and be ready to report on mass attendance at each of their masses versus church seating during the weekends in November and December. This request is being made by Archbishop O’Brien from all parishes in the archdiocese at this time. Not sure how this data will be handled by the archdiocese at this time. This request was made by Bp. Rozanski, personally, at the meeting on Oct. 28. I would imagine it would help to bring this data to the Jan. 6th meeting. Maybe by then we will know more about to whom to send that data.
 - v. *Do we want to have leadership from each parish in the areas we discussed that the parishes could work regionally on (see above) at the Feb. 27th meeting to sit and talk with one another?:* I.E> Each parish to invite people to talk about youth ministry, young adult, Divorced, Separated and Widowed/bereavement ministries, etc.?
 - vi. *Set a date for a combined penance service for Lent?*
- b. **PARISH STAFF AND COUNCILS MEETING:** Sun. Feb. 27 at 1:30p.
Probably at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Edgewater.
- i. Could go with a format where all staff and p.c.’s all attend, hear a bit about the cluster process, and then break up into groups based on their jobs (DRE’S with other DRE’s, deacons with deacons, pastors with pastors, etc.) to discuss:
 1. What would be ways to better work together as three parishes and the benefits from working together?
 2. And what would be some of the areas we maybe could not work together and what would be the challenges we might face in trying to work together?
 3. And then, with a facilitator (the facilitator from OLOS?) each group could present to the whole group.

*Peace, and in Christ,
May God’s healing Peace be yours,
Fr. Andy Aaron
Holy Family/Parishes of South County*