

Notes from LPA 12 meeting – February 9, 2008

Meeting Started with a prayer.

Ground Rules:

Be on time. One person speaks at a time. No side discussions. Listen. Respect for all ideas. Active participation by all attendees. May revisit some previously discussed/decided items. Silence cell phones. Have an open heart. Stay focused.

Review Agenda for today's meeting:

- Welcome and opening prayer
- Ground Rules
- Review of Options
- Decide on Options
- Plan parish meetings
- Meeting Evaluation
- Closing Remarks – Closing Prayer

New Data Made Available:

- Priests change previously 6 to 5 is now 6 to 4 by 2012. All plans/options should work with new number of four priests within LPA 12.
- Financial data requested by LPA is not available from chancery. Only the individual parish annual reports are available.
- Total population trends (from handout) in last 6 years show the following:
 - ^ Goochland 25% increase
 - ^ Caroline 20% increase
 - ^ Henrico 10% increase
- Deaconate program
 - ^ perhaps 6-7 new deacons in LPA12 when new deacon program is completed in next 4-6 years.
 - ^ new program is currently in year of aspirancy; program starts next year; lasts up to four years depending on individual backgrounds of deacon candidates.
 - ^ four types of tracks for deacon candidate to choose
 - ^ deacons can be assigned to any area within diocese; preference is for assignment within LPA
 - ^ current deacons are part of assignments/reassignments

- There are currently 17 seminarians within the diocese
- The ethnic data distributed has errors which need to be corrected. For example, the Church of the Vietnamese Martyrs (CVM) is not 100% Caucasian as listed.
- Book on clustering for each parish; handout “Where to Look for Common Ground’ for each LPA member representative.

Requested Data that is not available:

- Where priests currently live
- what the diocese/others are doing to increase vocations is being ‘parked’ at this time.
- what joint activities/planning are being done between Richmond and Arlington

Additional Data that is being requested at this time:

- Need what each parish in LPA12 is currently doing (coverage) and the amount of time each takes in the following: funerals, weddings, sacramental preparations, prisons, nursing homes, hospitals, parish-based school, the number of staff members/their roles in each parish

Note: each parish priest is to supply the requested information to Andy via email

- It was previously noted that we needed to visit other parishes within LPA12. Some visits have already occurred. Feel free to visit on your own.
- The ‘Green Bay model’ has been mentioned several times – please get specifics as to the work done.
- Revised priest count list as found on pages 34-35 of Guidelines.
- Are ordained members of chancery available for parish assignments?

Revisit Options:

Suggested that with new directive of planning for 4 priests rather than 5 priests, that we need to revisit the options and plan another meeting before meeting with our own individual parishes. Discussion followed as to pros and cons of another meeting at this time. Decided to go to individual parishes with the two options, get input and then come back together. Decide at that time if another meeting is needed in order to write report to diocese.

The considerations for options were re-visited – distance, other diocese activities, other LPA’s activities, weekend mass schedules, what is currently being done, etc.

Next Steps:

- Each parish to meet with both parish leadership and entire parish to update members on strategic planning efforts to-date. Review both the six models (pages 29-32) and the two options. Gather additional information from members including comments, additional models, additional options, etc. Report findings to LPA at April 5th meeting.

Meeting Evaluation:

- Options being presented to parishes are critical; need better use of deacons; pleased we are looking at BIG picture; facilitators are doing a good job, very patient; overwhelming (multiple occurrences)
- Respectful of differences; good unity and flexibility; need more data and need time to process the data; good cooperation
- some decisions are not considering priests' needs and not realizing that priests do more than just masses; how will priests handle the changes; how will we help priests
- Be prepared to counter resistance at parish meetings; don't shoot the messengers; be aware that the hard work is yet to come
- Still need to select the model to be used.
- Need broad tip markers for next meeting
- Each parish is to share dates for its upcoming parish meeting so other parishes can attend if desired. Share with Andy and he will distribute to all.

Next Meeting: April 5th 9 am to 12 noon St. Michael