

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL SESSION I: DIOCESE OF PORT PIRIE

Saturday 30th April 2016

Time: 10.00am – 2.30pm

Venue: Conference Room, the Chancery, 105 Gertrude Street, Port Pirie.

Fr Jim, as Vicar General, welcomed members to the first meeting of the reconfigured Diocesan Pastoral Council Session I – for leaders of agencies and ministries.

Bishop Greg who is recovering after surgery, sent his best wishes for the meeting and a promise to remember the DPC as he celebrated Mass.

FOCUS of this meeting: Diocesan Pastoral Plan – Strategic Direction Four

- ***How can we 'support, encourage, and enhance the critical work of our diocesan ministries'?***
 - ***How can we foster collaboration between the various Catholic ministries?***

Present: Brenda Keenan (Catholic Education), Frank Camporeale (KSC), Sr Anne Foale (Aboriginal Ministry), Sr Angela Mahar (Centacare – proxy for Peter Munn), Darylin Cowling (Aged Care), Anne Redden (CWL), Keith Colyer (St V de P), Sr Elizabeth Young (Youth Ministry and Prison Ministry), Fr Jim Monaghan (Vicar General). Sr Sonia Wagner (Bishop's assistant for pastoral ministry) who chaired this meeting.

Apologies: Peter Munn, Kevin Baxter, Fr Khalid Marogi, John Waters.

Sr Anne Foale led the council in an **acknowledgement of country**.

Prayer: A Future Full of Hope based on Jeremiah 29: 11 – 14

MINISTRY/AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS – CURRENT WORKS OF MERCY

By way of introduction, each member shared highlights from his or her Ministry/Agency, speaking of works of mercy they are engaged in and identifying what gives them energy and unity.

Pastoral Ministry – Sonia Wagner

- Connecting people from our diocese with courses offered in Adelaide by ACU, the Office for Worship and the Ministry Formation Program using new video conferencing equipment supplied by the CEO. This is a communication highlight and a work of mercy! On Wed 4th May ten people from Port Pirie and Port Lincoln will be the pioneering group to avail themselves of this opportunity. Two courses will be offered – Using Luke in Liturgy and The Church in Today's World (a four session course throughout May).
- Energy when collaboration really happens.

Schools – Brenda Keenan

- 13th-20th May Catholic Education Week theme - 'Opening doors of mercy'. The week opens with Jubilarian Eucharist and dinner in Port Pirie to acknowledge 25 years + of service in Catholic schools.
- On 7th July after 2 years of planning a group of teachers from all schools of the diocese, under the leadership of Brenda and Fr Brian Mathews, will set out for Kiribati, as part of the Kiribati commitment – a partnership venture with the Good Samaritan Sisters.
- June 9 and 10. Diocesan Leaders Conference – Mission and Mercy, unpacking the Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement 'For those who've come across the seas'. Phil Glendenning – President of the Refugee Council of Australia will be our keynote speaker.
- Energy: Hope gives energy – seeing and promoting it in schools, communities.

Knights of the Southern Cross – Frank Camporeale

- Supporting causes within parish, diocese, state, country, internationally.
- Everyday issues, standing up for “the Christian way of life”.
- Support of aged care, particularly Star of the Sea and Southern Cross Care.

Nursing homes – Darylin Cowling

- Work of mercy: Palliative care. “No one dies alone” philosophy of care. Support for those who are dying and their family.
- Port Pirie extensive Work for the Dole program. 3 have got jobs. They become conduits to the outside world for those who have no family.
- Trainees – one whose goal was to become a carer has recently done so.
- Energy: the resident is always the bottom line...is this in the best interest of the resident...act from a resident benefit perspective.

Aboriginal ministry – Anne Foale

- Highlight: Graduation of Practitioners of Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Care Workers – Certificate 4. Celebrating a core group of trained/qualified AMIC practitioners registered to work with their own women to close the gap on life expectancy.
- Moving on, but the work moves on.
- Opening up opportunities for the Sisters of St Anne, working in Davenport and new collaboration with St Vinnies.
- Energy: Seeing Aboriginal women standing up and speaking for themselves.

Centacare – Angela Mahar

- Most work is reactive. Where there is a need, funding applied for and then service is delivered. Hard to be proactive.
- However, trying to be proactive in the face of difficulty. How to produce services that reaches people before they need it? Build families and get information out to people.
- Family Week – party in the park, with 12-14 agencies with different fun activities.
- Community expo model, working with lots of agencies. Breaking the silo approach.
- Provision of e-counselling for remote areas – Roxby, Coober Pedy.
- A lot of time spent with retrenchments in Whyalla.
- Energy: relying on teams and team development. Support among teams. Lots of support from leadership. The fact that we are trusted and encouraged to bring up ideas and able to try.

Catholic Women's League – Anne Redden

- Care for the aged, visits to the Hospital and Belalie Lodge, including with young children.
- Working with people in their own homes.
- Energy: Retreat and vicariate meetings. Seeing what others do and meeting with other people. Experience of older people.

St Vincent de Paul – Keith Colyer

- In the last 18 months splitting of the Port Pirie Diocesan Council. Eyre Regional Council and the Riverland/Yorke Council. Extra rural voice at State Council.
- Keith's term ends in May and no one has come forward yet for replacement.
- Largest number of volunteers in the history of SA. 400 volunteers in just the Eyre region.
- Work of mercy: Strong emphasis on giving a hand up, not just a hand out. Giving respect and dignity.
- Came to agreement with Centacare in Whyalla – sharing emergency relief and budget counselling in the same building.
- Most volunteers in upper age bracket. Commencing a renewal program with team from Adelaide.
- Will conduct a special program in Whyalla, where there is a real need.

Professional Standards – Jim Monaghan

- The continuing effort to respond with openness and compassion to the cries of victims of child sexual abuse.
- Commitment to consistent and improving practices of child protection in every dimension of diocesan life and at every level.
- Fr Paul Crotty taking more and more responsibility in this.
- Full cooperation with the Royal Commission. Concluding work with Catholic Church next year.
- What gives life: when you no longer hear from someone after their process has been completed.
- 'Towards Healing' document. Proposed national redress scheme incorporates a lot of the material from 'Towards Healing'.
- Our approach is a long way ahead of Germany.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry – Elizabeth Young

- YCS state camp. See, Judge, Act on national campaign 'Climate Justice'. Action developed to promote SA's banning of plastic bags and 10c recycling schemes.
- Energy: hearing the stories of young people who are grappling with their faith journey. Pope Francis – Holy Spirit: newness, harmony and mission.

Prison ministry – Khalid Marogi and Elizabeth Young

- Man baptised at Easter. Many involved in his journey, he felt part of church family.
- Energy: collaboration between denominations, particularly around Christmas and Easter.

Insights/Questions

- How can we network better with different Catholic agencies?
- It is all about helping others, reaching out, forming relationships
- How are we sharing, celebrating and communicating these works of mercy across the diocese? Use of the diocesan website (eg. 3 things per ministry every year).
- We must be open to change, no one size fits all.
- Youth need to be given opportunities to use their skills in their own ways.
- Need to be proactive towards the young. How can they revitalise?
- How do we hear the voice of young people at the Diocesan Pastoral Council?
- How can we ask the young to teach us?

Pope Francis: His Magna Carta for Service

After reflecting on the wisdom of Pope Francis about mission and service via a powerpoint presentation, members shared *insights*?

- ***There is nothing in the Strategic Directions about the environment.***
 - ***Suggest we add Strategic Direction Number 8 – On Care for Our Common Home***
 - ***Could we appoint a diocesan officer for the environment?***
- A lot of the Pope's quotes are about respect. Need to promote respect more – for all persons and the environment.
- New roads – one thing to open doors. Also need to be proactive.
- Service being prime motivation – not power or ego. Constant call to conversion.
- Our society – privileges for rich, more stress on poor. Addictions – ways to medicate ourselves in a stressful world.
- People 'on the bottom of the pile'.
- Inviting every parish to be a missionary parish, not passive consumers.
- Transformations of workforce – better technology can mean fewer workers and people ending up on scrap heap.
- We can get so absorbed with one set of relationships that we forget about the others.
- Implementation of plans – move from words to something concrete.

Pope Francis has issued a Call for a Memorial of the Year of Mercy to be set up in every parish and diocese. What memorial will we create?

- Set up Mercy Stations in parishes, schools, etc. – to provide non-perishable items for St Vinnies, etc.
- Establish a fund for scholarships for trainees, Aboriginal women, etc. focus on education.
- Set up a scholarship fund for priests in places we have benefited from (Tanzania, Philippines).
- Link with the Kiribati venture in some way. Provide a boat in Kiribati or something that the high school needs. A structure. Something they want.
- Establish a liaison with Kiribati Catholic Women's League.
- Tree planting. Parishes, diocesan organisations, schools ... grow a tree (and look after it) that's indigenous to the area. Or an avenue of trees – 2008 for World Youth Day an avenue of trees was planted on John and Geraldine Slattery's property at Narridy. The trees are thriving!
- Youth Assembly could be an opportunity to be involved in any of these initiatives.

- Need for care of women and children in domestic violence situations. Set up support services and accommodation for these people.
- Enact the washing of the feet at Holy Thursday in the understanding that it teaches all Christ's disciples that their faith means servicing each other. That is, representation of the whole parish, male and female, young and old, able and disabled.
- Extend prisoner pen-pal program by promotion in parishes.
- Provide church premises for 12-step groups – eg. AA, NA, GA to hold their meetings.
- Publicise that the church's annulment process has been streamlined and is free of charge (donations accepted).

What collaborative action will we take?

After listening to all the suggestions, three ideas emerged with strongest support. The Council focussed attention on project suggestion No 1 - the planting of trees.

1. Planting of trees
2. Scholarship funds
3. Kiribati

'A merciful response to the cry of the earth'. Planting of trees Proposal. Trees to be planted as soon as possible. Recognition and ritual to mark the culmination of the project on Mercy Day Saturday 24th September

Task group: Angela Maher, Keith Colyer, Helen McKeough, Elizabeth Young, Sonia Wagner, Anne Foale and Bernadette Wauchope to meet as a task group as soon as possible to develop the draft project plan to circulate throughout the diocese. Anne will prepare a briefing for the group and circulate prior to the teleconference.

Response to the environment to be developed as a topic on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Kiribati: Brenda will research possible small project in Kiribati when she visits in July.

Communication with the Regional Pastoral Councils

The Minutes of this meeting will be circulated to the four Regional Pastoral Councils.

'A merciful response to the cry of the earth' – the tree planting project proposal – will be highlighted.

Response invited: How do you respond? Do you have any ideas to contribute?

Include a photo from Narridy – 2008 WYD. The Minutes will also be posted on the diocesan website.

QUESTIONS RAISED

- What succession plans are there for the Pastoral Ministry, Youth Ministry, Aboriginal Ministry since Srs Sonia, Elizabeth and Anne will be moving on? How will they be replaced?
- How can we improve the communication cycle for all the initiatives of the diocese and ensure that all those interested to receive news are included?
- There are people beyond the DPC who have been delegated to positions of responsibility by the Bishop. Who are they? How do they function? To whom do they report and when?

Year of Mercy Calendar: Liturgical and communal

Some additions:

- September the 24th (Mercy Day), Year of Mercy tree memorial culminating ritual.
- July 7th – 14th Kiribati Commitment.
- July 14th – August 7th World Youth Day.

Next meeting

A request was presented that the next DPC meeting be held on a week day. DPC II date to be revisited. Consultation with DPC members. Sr Sonia to action.

Closure and Final Prayer – Fr Jim Monaghan