

Minutes: April 23, 2009

Rocky Mountain Regional Council

**Vicars Report: Fr. Scott**

The following report was provided prior to the meeting:

- I am continuing the conversation with Lynn Boudreau about her incardination into the ECC. She is very excited about starting a community in Colorado Springs.
  - I have had pastoral meetings with Fr. Stan, Fr. Frank, and Mother Kae this month.
  - I participated in our monthly Leadership Council phone call this month. We discussed the National retreat, policy issues, personnel issues, and a general touching base as to what is happening around the Communion. Next Wednesday, Bishop Peter is starting a monthly call with all the Vicars of the Communion. I will no longer sit in on the Leadership Council meetings.
  - I spent a great deal of time preparing for Holy Week. Then there was Holy Week itself...and then Christ rose and I went to sleep! I thank God for the use of a friend's cabin last week. I feel renewed and refreshed. Thank you Sheila.
  - I spoke to several colleagues from around the country regarding:  
(1) the retreat and (2) the document from our Bishop regarding Regionalization.
- Scott began with a prayer for Fr. Frank Quintana's daughter, Maria Jeanette, who has just been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. He asked that we include her in our prayers at Mass on Saturday.
- Bishop Peter sent several documents regarding the Vision for the ECC and formation of regions to Scott. Scott sent these to the members prior to the meeting. These were discussed at great length and it was decided to reply using both email and a letter, with the email to be sent 4 days after the letter is mailed. The reply will thank Bishop Peter and all those who participated in their development, and indicate that we are comfortable with what the progress and manner in which the Rocky Mountain Region is functioning.

- Scott is meeting with Lynn Boudreau the weekend of April 25. She is interested in starting an ECC community in Colorado Springs. She is coming to see Scott April 26.
- Scott suggested the council put out a newsletter twice a year.

### **Update on Presencing Training: Fr. Scott, Sheila, & Teri**

- Scott feels the impact of presencing model on his own spirituality. Scott said presencing is a way for a group to conduct themselves using silence and space to get to the future. Scott likes presencing and finds it very prayerful and open. It's about listening to the Spirit and being in the moment. It is something that should be **practiced, not taught**. He is reading the book now. He is going to put together a list of things they use.
- Kathleen said she found that presencing honors everyone's space.
- Teri thanked Sheila for suggesting it. She mentioned that it contradicts everything she has been taught previously about meeting organization but feels it works well. It allows everyone to speak. It is difficult to do after being task oriented, as we often are at meetings.
- Stan, quotes Gandhi, saying "be the change you want to see". He likens this to presencing.
- Sheila suggested that Teri and Scott help the council "practice" it either at a meeting or during the council's retreat.
- Chuck asked if more will be trained in presencing.
- Jude said the next class is in September.

## **June ECC Retreat Planning: Kathleen**

- Teri said that registration is now going to be open; most people did not like the idea of 5 to a room. The website has been modified to allow people to pick a room and see the different prices based on occupancy. The registration period has been extended to the first week of May. Any room that is returned will cost \$50. So far there are approximately 41 people signed up. 30 rooms for 100 people were reserved. Terri asked that, if anyone knows of anyone who did not sign up because of the number of people in a room, please explain the change to them and that the website has more information.
- Scott said the economy is having an impact on people's ability to attend.
- Laura has spoken with the camp and they have a nursing station open from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. There is a first response EMS team available. She plans to have band-aids, water, and other first aid items available. It was also suggested that walkie-talkies be made available for the hikers.
- Sheila suggested someone make a run up to the camp to determine where the best place to put the first aid station would be. She also volunteered to go up with someone to do this. Sheila is also coordinating the morning prayers
- Kathleen asked that, if anyone knew of any hikers who could help, to let her or Rose know. She also said that Scott will coordinate the finale' with the leadership committee

## **Regional Council Strategic Planning Retreat: Chuck and Tom**

- Chuck provided a preliminary agenda. It was suggested that presencing be added to the agenda. Chuck said they could firm up the agenda at May's meeting
- Teri suggested reviewing presencing exercises before the retreat
- Scott provided a copy of the Bishop's letter to outlining the duties of a vicar for discussion at the retreat.

- Sheila suggested inviting Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan to discuss the concerns and problems faced by the Roman Catholic Womanpriests.
- Scott, Stan and Sheila will handle the prayers.

### **Audience Feedback**

- Fr Dan Rickard discussed the documents sent by the Bishop re regional councils and the idea of a newsletter.
- On September 18, Bishop Peter is coming to Light of Christ and, on September 19, there will be a conversation with the Bishop. All are invited.

### **Determine our issues/work items for next month**

- Tom suggested the National Retreat and the Regional Council's retreat
- Sheila suggested beginning a conversation with the Roman Catholic Womanpriests
- Scott suggested experiencing presencing and bringing Bishop Bridget to speak with the council
- Jude suggested discussing reading material in preparation for the Council's retreat and Sheila's experience at the Intentional Eucharistic meeting
- Stan suggested discussing what can be done to communicate with the communities in the region
- Chuck suggested the national retreat, the council's retreat, inviting Bishop Bridget to speak to all the communities, and the letter to Bishop Peter
- Kathleen suggested the retreats, inviting Bishop Bridget, and the newsletter

- Laura reiterates that wrapping up details for the ECC retreat is important
  
- The next meetings are scheduled from 7pm to 9 pm at the following communities and dates:
  - May 28 at Light of Christ
  - Aug 27 at Church of the Beloved
  - Sep 24 at Holy Family
  - Oct 22 at Light of Christ