

402 S. Independence Blvd.
Romeoville, IL 60446

JAVA Meeting Minutes

Date: May 8, 2006
Location: St. Charles Pastoral Center
Time: 2:00 p.m.

Present: Kevin O'Donnell, Carolyn Jost, Claire Vandborg, Marj Westendorf, Ron Beaumont, Barb Kwiatkowski, Guy Jelinek, Loren Beaudry, John Regan, Nora Labanauskas

I. Prayer: Fr. John Regan

II. Formation: Vocations & the Media. John passed out handouts on Vocations & the Media that he had originally presented at the Region IX meeting held in April. It shows samples on what is out on the internet on the vocations.com website. Section II talks about follow-up and tracking with a database. It is broken into four groups:

- Application process
- Identification of someone as being in discernment
- Serious prospects
- Active encouragement. The names are given to us by someone else, but the person whose name is given has not yet identified that he/she is in discernment.

John asked everyone in JAVA how they keep track of interested people in their congregations.

- Barb keeps them in a database and keeps a file on them
- Marjorie has a binder with contact name till they are more serious, then they get a notebook
- Carolyn keeps a file. General file for the first time, individual files after more contact.

There was discussion on how to weed out those not interested. Most either sent an email or a card asking if they are interested in receiving more information. Sometimes they get a response, otherwise, they drop them. Kevin connected two women up with each other that he knew were discerning so that they could communicate with each other while discerning. CAVA is starting a discernment group for women next year. They said maybe people requesting info get overlooked and have a hard time sorting through the info.

Guy uses a leadership seminar at Benet since SOML is not used now. He also uses a Strengths Finder from Gallup. There was a question as to how would discovering leadership skills in the students have anything to do with religious vocations. John explained it is just a follow up tool to SOML.

John offered the database he uses for follow to anyone who was interested in it. He also mentioned that NCDVD is interested in taking over the vocations.com website.

Kevin suggested a peer ministry group. It has been successful at North Central College. Sr. Marjorie said to use caution with something like that because of some fanatics. Sometimes more harm than good can come from them. Claire suggested their presence at some of Kevin's programs at the campuses and he thought that would be a good idea. He'll get the campus calendar out early to see if anyone would be interested in any programs he is offering.

III. Minutes: Correction to the April minutes. Section III Formation: Sentence 3 remove 'presenter' and replace with 'community represented'. Section IV. Programs B: Remove 'and has one scheduled for St. Norbert's'.

IV. Priorities/Projects:

A. Grade Schools – Guy reported on the Vocation Fair at Ss. Peter & Paul in Naperville. The K of C & Serra organized it. They invited 10 grade schools and only St. Raphael participated. It began with a prayer service then the boys and girls were separated. Guy thought it was a wonderful experience for them and enjoyed it. Sr. Barb spoke at St. Dominic's in Bolingbrook. She wanted to know how to get grade schools interested in getting JAVA out to talk to the students. There seemed to be interest for a few years and then it fell off. Then JAVA got involved with the high schools and college campuses and seemed to have lost the interest in the grade schools.

Guy also reported on Benet Vocation Fair – said it was a positive experience. Staff liked it and there was no negative feedback. He is planning on doing one again in two years.

B. Religious Education – no report

C. Catholic High Schools – Claire has been in contact with St. Francis in Wheaton. Wanted to know if JAVA would be interested in doing a vocation fair. JAVA is and she will get a date set.

D. Youth Groups – no report

E. University Campuses - Coffee & ... May 15 at COD. See commitment sheet.

F. Parish Vocation Contacts - no report

G. Serra Club of DuPage – Installation of officers tonight. Bishop Imesch and Father John will be there for that.

H. Vocations In Our Families – did not happen this year due to lack of registrations. Sr. Marjorie will continue to work on a draft of the booklet in hopes of doing it perhaps in the Fall. It was suggested to have a letter in the beginning of the book from the diocesan vocation director and a note from the Bishop.

V. Transition in Diocesan Vocation Office - The new diocesan vocation director will be Fr. Burke Masters.

VI. Looking to 2006-07 – Will wait till Fr. Burke takes over in the summer.

VII. Announcements – Irreplaceable Loren will be leaving vocation work here. He is going back to Africa. Also leaving JAVA are Myra Lambert, Bernie Hart, Marybeth Martin and Kathleen Copp.

**VIII. Next Meeting: TBA – Summer Picnic - *End of Year Gathering June 9
Fiat House 5:00 cocktails 6:00***