

## New Partnerships -- April 14, 2020

Attending the Zoom meeting were Fr. Pat Brennan, Fr. Alex Steinmiller, Sharon Brewer, Tim O'Brien and Elizabeth Velarde.

1. We began with the Vision Fulfillment Prayer.
2. The first item of discussion was the process by which ideas generated by the Vision Fulfillment Teams will be forwarded to the Resource Groups for evaluation and action. Tim O'Brien clarified that once a team has developed and written up an idea generated from a Call to Action, the team will formalize the idea in a standard format which will be distributed by the Vision Fulfillment Commission. During the upcoming Assembly, each VFT will be given an opportunity to present their ideas and identify the Resource Group they would like to send it to. The Resource Groups will have time to gather as a group and review the ideas they have been given. They will report to the Assembly participants their response to the idea and their intent in pursuing it or calling for further study.
3. Fr. Pat Brennan brought up the idea of requesting the PRCB to actively engage in considering what new models of partnerships they might seek to secure the retreat center ministry in future years. We have benefited over the years with the partnership we have enjoyed in Retreat Centers with the parishes in our diocese and the captains from those parishes which have been our primary recruiters for retreat attendance. As a Resource Group, the PRCB could identify the issues they are currently facing which would benefit by partnering with a new entity, or even a new way of being. How could we diversify our outreach to reach those populations who are not in church on a regular basis to hear what is offered on a Passionist weekend retreat?
4. Sharon felt this same approach could be utilized beyond the retreat center segment of HCP ministry. If they were able to effectively reach and draw people in from the larger community it could be possible to reach the young adult segment they desire. Sometimes it's just a matter of getting a message to someone in a way they are able to hear it and act on it. Sharon has been a Catholic for a long time and involved with the Passionists for many, many years. Yet it was only 3 years ago that she learned of the retreat center ministry in the Province. Getting our message to the right people in the right way could make a big difference in advancing our mission.
5. Tim reminded us that our time and energy can be spent on working on a few good ideas – quality is more desirable than quantity.
6. We stopped for a moment to acknowledge that the retreat centers and other institutions within the Province have submitted PPP applications for loans to help pay the payroll for all staff so that they did not have to be furloughed. Most have learned that their applications have been approved. In an ironic way, this is an example of a new partnership (with the Federal Government) which will hopefully bridge the gap in covering payroll for our staff until the day we are able to re-open. That's an unforeseen, unplanned, partnership but it does highlight the necessity to be attentive to our environment and nimble on our feet to take advantage of programs available to us.

7. Fr. Alex continues to explore the local groups in Detroit with whom he would like to explore the possibility of working together on projects compatible with each of our missions. These have been mentioned in previous meeting minutes.
8. Next we turned our attention to consider the question of whether the pandemic we are enduring would offer new partnerships as we try to reopen our ministries. Is there life after COVID19 for the food ministry program started in Sierra Madre, or the drive through lunch program in the Fairfield School System in Birmingham? What adjustments will have to be made when we discover what was there before the pandemic is no longer available to us? Visioning a new reality is what we are trying to do but it is more important than ever before in light of our current circumstance.

Next Zoom meeting – April 20, 2020.