

PARTICULAR COUNCIL REPORT



The North-West Particular Council comprises eleven (11) Conferences from the following Parishes of:

Point Cumana
Westmoorings
Maraval
Petit Valley

Carenage
Crystal Stream
St. James
Assumption, Mraval

Diego Martin
Paramin
Woodbrook

The Council holds regular monthly meetings on every second Friday, at Conference venue determined by the membership. There is a 64% attendance at most meetings. Two of the Conferences, St. Anthony's and Church of Nativity, faced challenges of death in membership but this improved in the fourth quarter of 2004 through appeals made by respective parish priests.

Conferences continued to receive regular Parish Stewardship subventions, with the exception of St. Peter's, Carenge and Assumption, Maraval in 2004. Upon successful discussions with the Parish Priest at the start of 2005. St. Peter's now receives regular parish funding. Bank balance for assumption also improved at the beginning of 2005, evidenced by the financial assistance received by Tritscher Home (for repairs) and other deprived conferences such as Paramin & St. Peter's.

Contributions continued to be made towards the payment of the Electricity bill of the Finbar Ryan Geriatric Home.

The Particular Council held regular Lenten retreats in 2004 and 2005 with membership at the St. Mary's, Mucurapo and Church of Nativity, Crystal Stream respectively. The year's activities culminates with Festival Mass for Benefactors, Friends and Conference members.

The Council held elections on January 14th 2005, with appointments as follows:-

Sr. June Gardner – President, Church of the Nativity, Crystal Stream

Br. Tommy Najab – Vice President, St. Finbar's

Sr. Angelique Taylor – Secretary, St. John's, Diego Martin

Br. Ashley Romany – Treasurer, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Paramin

To date, signatories on the Council's account have been changed and bank statements have been requested to be sent to the secretariat.

REPORTS ON CONFERENCES

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Paramin

Conference currently has a membership of fifteen, after losing two members, one to another Conference and the other, immigrating to Canada. The Conference is very active in holding annual fundraising events such as Walk-a-Thon (Easter Monday), Dinners, Breakfasts for Prison Ministry donation, Second Sunday breakfasts, all in aid of assisting their friends with surgeries, fire victim relief, wheelchairs, etc.

Thanksgiving Masses are normally held for benefactors as well as in celebration of the Parish's Anniversary. In 2004, bedridden fathers were presented with gifts by conference members. Br. Romain retained the President's post for a second term, supported by a new Vice-President, Secretary and Assistant Secretary. The Conference has recently established two (2) Sub-Committees to provide their friends with better service; the Health & Surgical Committee and the Building & Construction Committee.

St. Peter's, Carenage

In 2004, the Conference experienced great difficulty in accessing its parish funds and funeral donations from their priest, however, this was rectified in 2005 after discussions were held with the main parties. The Bank balance tends to be severely low at times but the

conference continues to be supported by neighboring conferences such as St. Finbar's, St. John's, Assumption, etc.

The Conference supports the operation and attends to the residents of the St. Peter's Home. Great response is received from donors during Christmas time where food hampers are distributed as well as the Children's Christmas party held on Christmas Day. A Junior Conference has been established with Post-Communion children (under age 12). Their activities are encouraged and supported by Senior membership.

Assumption, Maraval

This Conference as at March 2005 had a membership of twelve (12). In 2004, the Conference experienced a drop in the parish funds collected due to an aging congregation with exhausted pensions. A 25% cut in friends' relief was considered at the time.

Conference visitation was also at a standstill since member faced challenges of steep terrain and high risk communities. However, in 2005, parish funds improved and new membership joined the conference. Large donations were received during Christmas time. The Conference has recently established a Medical Fund to assist friends with their medical expenses. Vouchers to the value of \$7,000 were distributed to clients in 2004.

St. Mary's, Mucurapo

The year 2004 commenced with a change in treasurer after the existing person resigned. Membership is currently at sixteen (16) and regular retreats are held to strengthen membership commitment. In 2004, the Conference entered into a building project in conjunction with the Self-Help Commission. Many friends benefited from this project.

In 2004, the Conference experienced difficulty in accessing Parish funds and special donations; however, this was rectified with the appointment of a new parish priest. The conference submits regular financial reports on Church Collection to the Parish priest.

Annual fund-raising events held by the Conference include the successful Poor Man's Dinner at the cadet Mess, Long Circular. Friends of the Conference were invited to participate in a Seminar on Financial Management in 2005. Children of client's were treated at Joe's Pizza upon completion of their SEA exams.

The Conference donated relief to Grenada during the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan. Annual Thanksgiving Masses were held for Benefactors and Friends of the Conference. Parishioners continue to provide tremendous generosity during Christmas time.

Church of Nativity, Crystal Stream

This Conference experienced great difficulty in recruiting membership. Existing membership felt de-motivated to carry on visitation and the treasurer resigned. However, through appeals made by the Parish Priest, membership increased to sixteen (16). Visitations increased with a rejuvenated spirit. The conference assists families in home repairs, construction, electrical works, etc.

The conference has entered into a new initiative with the Crystal Stream Government Primary School to assist in providing their friends with training opportunities in farming and garment construction. Conference continues to receive an overwhelming response from parishioners during Christmas time.

St. Theresa's, Woodbrook

Membership increased by two over the period under review. A Social Justice Committee was established in the Parish stemming from 2003 Synod resolutions. Conference President joined the

Committee which started advocacy against abortion in the Parish over 100 lunches continue to be distributed.

New President was elected in 2005 following the resignation of Br. Frank Pichery. The new President is expected to embark on a recruitment drive especially targeting younger people to join the membership. The Conference held a funeral service for an ex-treasurer, Br. Peter Phillip.

St. Anthony's, Petit Valley

Current membership increased by five to a total of thirteen (13) in 2005. Prior to this no visits were being made to clients due to the frailty of membership. Regular visitation has resumed. Parish donations are quite healthy especially at Christmas. Fundraising bar-be-ques were held to assist persons with prostate surgery as well as to establish an account to help in offsetting medical expenses for medication, tests and the like.

St. Finbar's, Diego Martin

Conference has twelve functioning members. Conference provided financial assistance to other Conferences in need as well as to Grenada and Tsunami Relief victims. Bus passes are donated to their friends' children in 2004. In 2005, Motivational talks were given to their friends and their children on life and living.

Conference's meeting place was temporarily re-located to accommodate the construction of a new Pastoral Centre. Financial reports are placed on the Parish Notice Board and comments/ suggestions are welcomed from parishioners. Parishioners continued to be very generous during Christmas time with food parcels and the organizing of the Children's party. Annual mass held for benefactors.

St. John the Evangelist, Diego Martin

Membership is at eight (8). Cases are regularly reviewed to ensure adequate assistance being provided. Mass held for benefactors and friends of the Society. Meals on Wheels programme in conjunction with the Anglican Church continued every Second Sunday. Parishioner offered to prepare more Sunday lunches. Church collection box was vandalized, however, donation envelopes are now printed as has been quite successful among parishioners. Parishioners assisted in the preparation of Christmas parcels as well as parcels for Grenada relief victims.

Conference assisted persons in acquiring a wheelchair from FEEL, applying for social assistance, obtaining surgery for an artificial eye, counseling for problem children and purchasing schoolbooks, uniforms, etc. for children. Over 40 Family lunch tickets were purchased and donated by a parishioner to our friends as well as to clients from the surrounding Conferences. Financial assistance was also provided to other Conferences.

The Conference has formed links with the principals of neighboring primary schools to prepare a list of children and their families who may be in need. In collaboration with the parish priest, the Conference assists and receives funds from a "Million Cents" Project. Parishioners donate their old coins (cents) towards financing underprivileged children within their community. Parishioners also donate food parcels every third Sunday.

Our Lady of Lourdes , Maraval

Conference operates a Soup Kitchen, which was updated and improved to meet health and safety requirements in 2004. Equipment, stove and other kitchen utensils were donated by the Particular Council and neighbour Conferences, benefactors provide regular donations to operate the kitchen, which caters for over fourteen (14) persons daily.

The Conference donated a refrigerator to a fire victim in 2004. Fundraising events include Good Friday sales of Hot Cross Buns and at The Parish 's Family Day. Christmas parties for the children and luncheons for Senior Citizens are held annually. Food parcels are also distributed to their friends during Christmas time. Two members fell ill during 2005 and this dampened attendance at meetings for some months.



The Suburban Vicariate consists of ten (10) conferences stretching from Baratara in the West to Tunapuna in the East. Of these ten Conferences, two are not functioning well and assistance is given to strengthen these Conferences. The officers of the Conferences are duly elected and performing their various tasks.

The Suburban Vicariate Particular Council is functioning well and its Officers are duly elected. This Council meets on the second Monday of each month at the San Juan R.C. Presbytery at 6:00pm. The Conferences are represented on the council by their Presidents and/ or Secretaries.

The Suburban Vicariate Particular Council acts as a channel for communication between the National Council and the Conferences. This Council organizes teamly Festival meetings for all Conference members. The Council holds its Annual Day of Recollection for all its members. During the Christmas Season, the Council holds a luncheon for its members.

There are three SVP institutions within our Vicariate. They are the Tritscher Home for Men, Audrey Mollineau Halfway House for Ladies and the Cyril Ross 'SVP' Nursery. The Council assists these Institutions in many ways.

The Suburban Vicariate Particular Council seeks to improve the working of the Conferences so as to better service the poor and needy of our communities.



During the period under review several Conferences held fundraisers for their respective Conferences. They also assisted others in similar efforts. Festival meetings were kept and all Conferences were able to benefit families and the needy at Christmas with hampers.

Some of the stronger Conferences assisted the weaker ones on a regular basis and sometimes with special projects. The Particular Council is also grateful for the assistance that was given by other Particular Councils and Conferences to needy North East Conferences.

In the Northeast some of the Conferences can do well by themselves but there are others that will always need assistance. Efforts have been made to structure collaboration between the Conferences that are strong and their weaker brethren. These efforts continue and it is hope that in the near future the National Executive may develop a coherent policy in this regard.

Visits were made to most of the Conferences mostly to fill out Questionnaire forms. These forms have been handed in to Headquarters.

Attempts to aggregate all Conferences continue. In this regard the applications that have met with the President's approval have been transmitted to Paris for consideration.

Conferences in the region continue to keep their commitments to the Institution in our region and from all reports the Home Committee continue to function quite well.



This report covers the months September 2004 to May 2005

Meetings were held regularly on the last Monday of each month, except when that Monday was a public holiday when it was held on the previous Monday. Attendees ranged from a Low of 5 to a high of 9 members from a total complement of 8 Conferences.

Officers elected at the last election were Br. Cuffy of the Rosary Conference, President, Br. Samaroo of St. Patrick's Conference, Treasurer and Br. Jardim of St. Ann's Conference, Secretary.

The Council was graced with the presence of Br. Hugh Clerk from the National executive at the September 04 and March 05 meetings; we also had the pleasure of the company of Sr. Abbott (visiting from LA) at the March 05 meeting. Sr. Woodruffe often drops in on meetings.

Fundraising activities ranged from cake sales, bar-be-ques and plant sales to pilgrimages.

We record with pleasure the visit from Sr. Abbott, former Treasurer of the Council, in March 05.

At present the account of the Council stands at \$78. in cash and a bank balance of \$2,114,36.

The general purpose fund stands at \$83.21