



## Vision In Action

improving St. Therese Parish  
via

- Hands-on involvement
- Stewardship of time, talent & treasure
- Listening and doing

**Next meeting:  
March 28 - 9:00 a.m.  
with Terry Thorne  
in Conference Room**

# Vision In Action - VIA

Meeting held March 14, 2009

Attending: Fr. Bill Hoffman, Andy Somers, Bert & Mary Wiegand, Bill Kime, Carlos Herrera, Dcn. Patrick Whitcomb, Dick Schreiter, Doug Maki, Ellen Vissers, Ernesto Gonzalez, Greg Jean Pethan, James Zimmer, Nancy Bourassa, Sara Buscher, and guest: Anita Revord, from St. Thomas More parish.

Note: Sr. Anne Arthur has asked to keep receiving communications, but due to her many commitments, she will not be attending meetings.

**1. Opening prayer** was said by Fr. Bill.

**2. Agenda items for today:**

- A. Bert's presentation on automated phone systems
- B. Website update
- C. Subcommittee on Communications
- D. Back burner items

**3. Phone tree system** - Bert Wiegand

Bert prepared a Power Point on several different systems (also matching paperwork was handed out.) He started with faith-based messaging systems, and looked at a total of 5 different companies – PhoneTree, which we had looked at previously, plus 4 others.

He went over the various options. PhoneTree systems (there were a number of choices) are stand-alone – they attach to your PC. Then 1, 2 or 3 phone lines are attached for the outgoing calls. You record your message, keep the database on that computer, and PhoneTree makes the calls using your phone line(s).

All of the other products are internet based: the database is kept at the host site and calls are placed from their website. You call an 800 number to record the message, and need to buy “calling credits”. Advantage: anybody can call in from any location to record a message; plus they are very fast in getting the calls out. Disadvantage, they have our database, not us.

Questions: will they sell our lists? Can we get the database off, if we want it? Is there an Opt Out choice on calls: “I don't want to receive any more calls from St. Therese Parish”. Is there a trial program, so we could try before we buy? Answer - yes, all have a trial period, of 30-90 days. Research: the 10¢ or 13¢ that they are quoting as a price per call: is that guaranteed or does the price go up each year?

*Great job Bert!!*

Next steps:

- Form a team to determine our needs and then select the correct product.
    - Include people who will use this system (office staff). Check D&B (credit check) on company.
  - Survey committees and groups to see who would use this.
  - Contact current users for feedback, “benchmark”
  - Come back with recommendation. They are accountable to interface to key stake holders.
  - Get approval from Parish Council and Finance Council.
  - Talk to and train the users.
- NOT responsible for fund raising. Finance will handle, or they will come back to us to ask for help raising funds.

Members of the subcommittee to study automated phone systems: Bert Wiegand - key contact, Greg Pethan, Carlos Herrera, Dick Schreiter. Invite to join: Barb Miller, Chris Armstrong, Laura Biskupic.

They will come back with a recommendation by May 1st.

#### 4. Website update – Ellen

Still under construction, but coming along.

(Website was pulled up on the laptop/PowerPoint.)

Suggestion: add a button on the side for Lent/Easter (later for Christmas, etc.) and have the special Masses and Stations, etc. listed. Good idea.

Question: have we set it up to forward people from the old site? Answer: working on that, if it hasn't happened already.

Question: does the diocese have the correct link to this site from the diocesan site? Answer: we'll check on that.

Suggestion: have the bulletin mention this. Yes, it's already in the bulletin.

Suggestion: make a poster for the back of church with the opening page showing, and the address very large.

Good idea, who has access to a large-format printer? - Ernesto volunteered to work with Ellen on this.

#### 5. Need to form a Communications Committee – Ellen

Some names have come up - people who checked out the website and then took the time to call and comment or suggest things. Ernesto and Ellen volunteered to be on this committee and invite the others to join, maybe 5-6 people on this committee. Plans are to meet 3-4 times per year, problem solve and then drop back until needed again. Current topics would be guidelines for the website, thoughts about the expanded bulletin, and a mention of the automated phone system.

#### 6. Back burner items:

**A. Flat screen / Power Point** for presentations in the back of church, and more.

We think a Power Point setup costs \$500-\$1200; a flat screen TV \$500-\$600. Carlos will get us a price by the next meeting. Bill Kime will send him some info.

**B. Opening Greeting when dialing office to give Spanish option** - Did this happen?

Yes, but Spanish side doesn't work. Barb Miller is working on this.

**C. Community Foundation Matching Day** - did Fr. send letter to them with our concerns?

No, we're just going to chalk it up as a learning experience.

#### 7. Meeting times - set regular date and time,

We have had several instances of last minute changes. Should we set up a regular meeting time – for instance, the second Saturday of each month? Carlos said the 4th Saturday of the month would be good, there aren't any other regularly scheduled activities then.

The committee agreed on the 4th Saturday of each month from 9-11am, in the Parish Center Conference Room.

Dates through Fall: **March 28th** - Terry Thorne will come to talk. (Conference room.)

**April 25th**

**May 30th** - go to 5th Saturday because of Memorial Day

**June 27**

**July 25**

**Aug. 22**

**Sept. 26**

**Oct. 24**

#### 8. Meeting adjourned at 11:05

*Minutes taken by Ellen Vissers*

**On the back burner:** (did not come up at this meeting)

Elder Care - Patrick

Expanded bulletin - Ellen

Communications Survey - Dick, Doug, Pethans

Other "parking lot" items????

What's next after Communications?

**Projects accomplished:**

1. Office survey; several recommendations implemented
2. Pilot of communications survey was completed
3. Sign out front w/Mass times - delegated to Bus. Administrator
4. Stewardship survey - handed to Parish Council for Stewardship committee to handle
5. Comm. Foundation Matching Day - communications went out, \$10,000 was raised for parish
6. We officially have a name and logo: Vision In Action / VIA

**Vision In Action** committee members:

Andy Somers - Andy.Somers@kplna.kpl.net

Bert & Mary Wiegand - mwiegand@new.rr.com

Bill Kime - bill.kime@menasha.com

Carlos Herrera- carlos.herrera@st-therese.com

Dcn. Patrick Whitcomb - home - patrick.whitcomb@tds.r

Dcn. Patrick Whitcomb - patrick.whitcomb@st-therese.c

Dick Schreiter - rschreiter@directions.com

Doug Maki - maki@msoe.edu

Ellen Vissers - home - evissers@new.rr.com

Ellen Vissers - work - ellenv@timesvillager.com

Ernesto Gonzalez - egonz@hotmail.com

Fr. Bill Hoffman - william.hoffman@st-therese.com

Greg Pethan - gpethan@pekininsurance.com

James Zimmer - jzimmer@Baisch.com

\* Jay & Pam Cornell - cornell608@sbcglobal.net

Jean Pethan - neverhomejean@msn.com

Kathy Somers - home - asomers@new.rr.com

Kathy Somers - work - kathy.somers@dwd.state.wi.us

Larrie Brazner - lbrazner6@sbcglobal.net

Liz Villagomez - laratachin@new.rr.com

Maria Huff - maria\_huff@hotmail.com

Mary Bergman - bergjaw@aol.com

Nancy Bourassa - bourkim57@yahoo.com

Sara Buscher - sarabus@milwpc.com

\* Sr. Anne Arthur - aklinker@ssnd-milw.org

\* currently inactive