

Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Pastoral Planning Task Force Meeting Notes

Monday, December 12th at 6:30 PM -St. John the Evangelist Parish Center

NOTES

ATTENDING: Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows: Fr. William Coffas, Our Mother of Sorrows: Marc Boeh, Holy Cross: Joseph DiVincenzo, St. Charles Borromeo: Gina Reeder, David Steklenski, St. John the Evangelist: Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu, Paul Parkman, Nick Verdino, St. Lawrence: Fr. Lee Chase, Steve Amico, Jeri Rombaut, St. Leo the Great: Father Joseph Catanise, David Jones, Barbara Surash, St. Mark: Peter Blind, Kimm Wesley, Facilitator: Karen Rinefierd

EXCUSED: Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows: Fr. Joseph Martuscello, Holy Cross: Ryan Snyder, Our Mother of Sorrows: David Witkoski, St. Charles Borromeo: Fr. John Firpo, St. Mark: Deacon Frank Pettrone

6:30 **Prayer** (Matthew 1:18-24): Faith sharing, Intercessions, The Lord's Prayer

6:50 **Initial work to create and communicate an emergency weekend Mass plan for our parishes**--small group work in parish/cluster groupings:

Holy Cross and Our Mother of Sorrows

Available retired priest: Fr. Robert Schrader

If weekend Mass were canceled, where would parishioners likely travel to attend Mass? Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows (the other parish), St. Charles Borromeo, St. Kateri in Irondequoit (from Holy Cross)

How we currently communicate sudden changes with parishioners: Flocknotes, Facebook, phone/text (informal only), website

What other methods should be explored/used? Not sure—more discussion needed. More formal lists for email and text. Increase awareness/signup for Flocknotes.

St. Charles Borromeo

- Two priests are assigned to St. Charles—therefore, one could fill in for the other.
- If weekend Mass were canceled, where would parishioners likely travel to attend Mass? Our Mother of Sorrows or Holy Cross
- How we currently communicate sudden changes with parishioners: Social media (Facebook, Instagram), email blast, website, local news (weather), text messaging, note on doors of church.
- What other methods should be explored/used? ?

St. John the Evangelist

- There is no retired priest or religious order priest who might be available on short notice.
- If weekend Mass were canceled, where would parishioners likely travel to attend Mass? 1) St. Lawrence, 2) St. Charles, 3) Our Mother of Sorrows
- How we currently communicate sudden changes with parishioners: No problem at present. Good electronic communications.
- What other methods should be explored/used? Website, Facebook, Twitter, contact rectory.

St. Lawrence

- Religious order priest who might be available: Fr. Matthew Temple, O.Carm.
- If weekend Mass were canceled, where would parishioners likely travel to attend Mass? St. John the Evangelist, Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Jude's at Holy Family Parish
- How we currently communicate sudden changes with parishioners: sign on church door, Facebook

Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Pastoral Planning Task Force Meeting Notes

Monday, December 12th at 6:30 PM -St. John the Evangelist Parish Center

- What other methods should be explored/used? Flocknote or similar

St. Leo the Great

- Priests who might be available (they regularly serve at the parish): Fr. Bob Ring, Fr. Joe DeMaio, Fr. Jack Healy
- If weekend Mass were canceled, where would parishioners likely travel to attend Mass? St. Mark's or St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport
- How we currently communicate sudden changes with parishioners: radio announcements, policy of following local school closings, website, parish-wide email (300 people), sign on door, Facebook
- What other methods should be explored/used? Updating capabilities of parish voicemail messages and updating parish sign

St. Mark's

- Available retired priest: Fr. Jim Hewes
- If weekend Mass were canceled, where would parishioners likely travel to attend Mass? Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Lawrence, St. Leo
- How we currently communicate sudden changes with parishioners: church website, Facebook, Instagram
- What other methods should be explored/used? Cell phone/parish app, phone tree, signs on the doors, email blasts, parish-wide emails, local news, electronic voicemail messages

7:35 **Continued work on a shared approach: vocations to the priesthood: specific ideas**

- Use unified prayers for vocations across all 7 parishes [The diocese just issued a prayer for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Fr. Coffas brought copies for everyone.]
- Special Masses to encourage attendance—e.g., an anniversary Mass for all those baptized in the last year
- Engage youth across all 7 parishes—Fr. Joe's "Ignite" program, Youth Mass
- Engage families for continuing attendance at Mass and bringing their kids (if the kid's not there, he has no real exposure to vocations)

Fr. Coffas and Fr. Martuscello are both members of the diocesan Vocational Awareness Team. Our parishes may be able to pilot initiatives as they are developed.

Continued work on a shared approach: vocations to the permanent diaconate: specific ideas

- Current deacon(s) sharing their personal journey/story on becoming a deacon
- Weekend devoted to deacon recruitment in all seven parishes with a communication/speech to help demystify and educate about what it means to be a deacon; have all pastors invite all deacons to participate in "deacon weekend"
- Communicate the actual steps to becoming a deacon
- Consider personal invitations to active parishioners who would be great deacon candidates
- Hold an open house with several deacons present for an opportunity for interested parties to ask questions
- Create an awareness that the candidate's wife is a large part of the discernment process—there should be sensitivity to the role the spouse plays

As part of our work to prepare for an expected smaller number of priests serving our parishes, approaches to invite, train, and support parishioners to take increasing roles in our parishes: specific ideas

- grow opportunities/expectations for adult spiritual growth to strengthen the core of the church stewards
- opportunity for youth lectors, extraordinary ministers of communion at Mass; older altar servers mentor younger altar servers--start building an expectation/a culture of stewardship at a young age

Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Pastoral Planning Task Force Meeting Notes

Monday, December 12th at 6:30 PM -St. John the Evangelist Parish Center

- pray for lay vocations to stewardship (in addition to praying for priests, religious, deacons)
- go out to ask people to do things based on their skills
- create opportunities for people to understand Christ's expectation that we are all called to be stewards! Using their unique gifts to build the kingdom vs. hiding their gifts under a bushel
- develop a process to help parishioners know our parish needs so that they can connect their specific skills with the parish needs. Stewards/ministers to engage with their skills.
- Twinning ministry—Stephen Ministry
- Call upon the skills of the professionals sitting in the pews. Call upon the life experiences of parishioners to share with others.
- Scholarship or subsidize any formal training

8:10 **Communications with parishioners**

As previously suggested, we will be starting short bulletin articles in January. To keep mission as the central focus, to share accurate data while not just demoralizing parishioners, we will alternate one week highlighting a particular parish ministry or our schools with one week sharing data we have gathered. Karen will draft articles for review by task force members. The principals will also be asked to review any article that refers to Holy Cross or St. Lawrence School.

Jenny Ertel—the bulletin editor for Holy Cross, Our Mother of Sorrows, and St. John the Evangelist—is developing a page for the task force on the Holy Cross website. The page will include the names and email addresses of task force members, meeting minutes, bulletin articles, and the full data referred to in bulletin articles. Parishes will hopefully have links to the page on their own websites.

8:20 **Weather-related changes**

We will not meet in person if any of the school districts cancels classes or after-school activities. If any member thinks we should not meet in person, please contact Karen as early in the day as possible. Where possible we will then attempt to meet via Zoom rather than cancel. Karen will phone or text members regarding any changes.

Future task force meetings (all at 6:30 pm):

- Monday, Jan. 23, main room in Deacon Hall at St. Lawrence [note that the November minutes included an incorrect date]
- Wednesday, Feb. 15, St. Charles Borromeo library in the former school building
- Wednesday, March 15, St. Leo's