

Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Pastoral Planning Task Force Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 20, 2022 – 6:30-8:30 pm -St Lawrence Church-Deacon Hall

ATTENDING: Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows: Fr. William Coffas, David Cataline (seminarian, guest), **Holy Cross:** Joseph DiVincenzo, **Our Mother of Sorrows:** David Witkoski, **St. Charles Borromeo:** Fr. John Firpo, 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:** Fr. Bob Ring (representing Fr. Joseph Catanise), David Jones, Barbara Surash, **St. Mark:** Deacon Frank Pettrone, Peter Blind, Kimm Wesley, **Facilitator:** Karen Rinefierd, **Minutes Scribe:** Maryanne Sutton

EXCUSED: Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows: Fr. Joseph Martuscello, **Holy Cross:** Ryan Snyder, **Our Mother of Sorrows:** Marc Boeh, **St. Leo the Great:** Fr. Joseph Catanise

1) **PRAYER** (Psalm 16): Faith sharing, Intercessions, The Lord's Prayer

2) **BUILDINGS/GROUNDS SPREADSHEETS**

- The team reviewed the spreadsheets
- St Charles' capacity (as stated) is determined by the Fire Marshall.
- **TASK:** For the Parishes that have lined parking spaces, please send data (# spaces) to Karen.
- **TASK:** Measure out church capacity based on 22" per person for those parishes that initially reported Fire Marshall capacity—send to Karen.
- Father Chase discussed purposes of buildings that are empty/closed. What are we using them for and how are we best using them to meet the mission of the church? This is in response to Pope Francis' exhortation to all parishes to exercise good stewardship with regards to the use of buildings.

3) **PARISH INVENTORIES**

a) **St. Lawrence**

- It is now a one priest parish. This will have a large impact on St. Lawrence.
- The Faith in Action ministry sponsors many activities such as an Adult Bible Study which is well attended by over 100 people each year. They also promote catechesis about a Consistent Ethic of Life, make available materials for private prayer and learning, sponsor a weekly Sunday rosary group, and much more.
- The Keeping in Touch ministry, overseen by Faith In Action, visit the homebound, those hospitalized, those in nursing homes and assisted living. They bring Holy Communion, rosaries, and pray with the individuals. If they cannot do in-person visits, they make telephone visits. The group also regularly sends out cards to the homebound and those in nursing homes.

b) **St. Charles Borromeo**

- Home visitation program that visits nursing homes and homebound.
- They also have a card ministry that sends cards to the homebound.
- Scholarship Committee's focus now is to develop and present a program for parents and teens to prevent Cyber-bullying.

c) St. Leo The Great

- Two Christian Formation Coordinators have retired, and they have hired a new Faith Formation Coordinator.
- The music ministry is a wonderful ministry. Great music and several choirs.
- Education of Catholic faith is a prevalent topic. Reading material is regularly distributed to those who wish to learn more about their faith.
- Looking for parishioners to step up and hold leadership positions.

d) St. Mark's

- The Youth Ministry/Young Adult Ministry is integrated. (Example: Vacation Bible school, Youth Choir)
- NCYC involvement of Youth
- Alpha Youth is an evangelization youth program that has a Bible study for young adults and teens.
- Re-purposing rooms for Faith Formation
- Vacation Bible School will be in August with participants encouraged to bring a friend.

e) St. John the Evangelist

- The Church has an older population
- The Parish brings communion to select Greece Assisted Living facilities every week
- They have the Christ Life program
- The Ladies of Fatima meet, pray, and celebrate the Marian virtues
- They are doing a large amount of funerals
- The Parish studied how they can be more inviting and welcoming. They got involved in social media via Facebook and Twitter.

f) Our Mother of Sorrows and Holy Cross

- Will review in Fall

4) OBJECTIVES 2022-2023--brainstorming

- We work on Reactive/Defensive research, we should be more Pro Active and be on the Offense
- Communicating best practices at each parish
- Possibly publish a Newsletter for all the Parishes
- How can you help us? How can we help you?
- Focused objectives
- Eucharistic Revival themes/activities shared
- Have group agree and determine what items are attainable to accomplish
- Discuss St. Carlo Acutis and his Web site regarding Eucharistic miracles
- Remember Sustainability before deciding objectives
- Discuss how the 7 parishes will maintain with a limited number of priests and bring recommendations to new Bishop
- Engage our parishioners in a conversation of the reality of the situation regarding the number of Priests and declining parish attendance
- How can the 7 parishes promote vocations collaboratively

- How do we prepare the laity to step up and help the Parish?
- What are we doing to deal with the parishioners that we have lost since Covid began?
- How is educating parishioners to be a part of this process
- **TASK:** Any additional suggestions should be sent to Karen

5) CONTENT FOR NEXT COMMUNICATION TO PARISHIONERS

- What do we share with parishioners now?
 - Be honest and accurate
 - We are about re-fashioning what it means to be church
 - Will create recommendations to the Bishop to move us forward collaboratively
 - Working thru challenges together
 - We do this as the Catholic Church of Greece, Hilton and Charlotte, moving beyond parochial boundaries
 - **ACTION:** Karen will draft up a communication to send out to the team for review before it is published in bulletins
- What waits until after the 10/4 meeting?
 - Sharing the data we are collecting
 - Sharing the 2022-2023 goals we finalize in October

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 4, 2022- St. Mark's in Greece