

**Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Pastoral Planning Task Force**  
**Tuesday, February 25, 2025 @ St. Lawrence**

**ATTENDING: Holy Cross:** Joseph DiVincenzo, **St. Charles Borromeo:** Fr. John Firpo, Gina Reeder, **St John the Evangelist:** Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu, Nick Verdino, **St. Lawrence:** Fr. Lee Chase, Steve Amico, **St. Leo the Great:** David Jones, **St. Mark's:** Deacon Frank Pettrone, Peter Blind, Kimm Wesley, **Facilitator:** Karen Rinefierd, **Minutes Scribe:** Maryanne Sutton

**EXCUSED: Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows:** Fr. William Coffas, Fr. Justin Miller, **Holy Cross:** Amy Mulcahy, **Our Mother of Sorrows:** Marc Boeh, David Witkoski, **St. John the Evangelist:** Paul Parkman, **St. Lawrence:** Jeri Rombaut; **St Leo the Great:** Fr. Joseph Catanise; Barbara Surash; **St. Charles Borromeo:** David Steklenski

**Prayer** (Psalm 92) faith sharing, intercessory prayers, the Lord's Prayer

- The group shared what they were thankful for, based on their time serving on the Task Force.

**Choosing which Task Force members will attend the Presbyteral Council meeting on Tuesday, March 11**

- Father Lee Chase shared that the Bishop and staff at the pastoral center were impressed with the Task Force and hope our work becomes a model for the rest of the diocese.
- Father Chase and Father Coffas have been asked to talk with the Rochester city pastors to give them an overview of what the task force has accomplished and encourage them to engage in a similar process.
- The time for the Presbyteral Council to discuss our work will be from 2:35-2:50 pm. The meeting is in the Bishop Hickey conference center in the back of the pastoral center, 1150 Buffalo Road.
- Priests will have copies of the plan. Fr. Lee and Fr. Bill will provide a summary of the plan and the process. There may be some questions.
- Jeri Rombaut has agreed to be one representative at the Presbyteral Council meeting. We are hoping one other lay member of the task force can also come. None present at this last task force meeting were able to go; Karen will reach out to those who were unable to come tonight.

**Discussion and Decisions regarding the new committee to succeed the Task Force**

- Agreement that there needed to be a committee to coordinate the work of the 7-parish committees.
- Those present discussed the proposal for a new committee. Comments:
  - Agreement that the new committee (called a Steering Committee) should not be like a pastoral council and meet every month or two.
  - Parishes/pastoral leaders do not need to go through the Steering Committee to organize shared programs or staff—e.g. the 2025 Lenten retreats that some of our parishes will be holding in collaboration with others.
  - The 7 parishes currently have an Evangelization Committee, a Vocations Committee, and the Roc Catholics Northwest website with a web administrator and his backup.
  - Deacon Frank stated that, personally, he wasn't sure another committee meeting would be the best use of his time, but that time might be better spent in collaboration between parishes based upon the plan submitted. [After the meeting, he shared that his comment was prior to the description of the meeting and its goals, as well as Fr.

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Chase indicating he would expect to meet 2-3 times per year.] Also, during the meeting he stated that 2 or 3 meetings per year would be “doable.”

- Father Chase mentioned 3 areas that a Steering Committee could look at:
  1. How we can keep the 2 schools vibrant.
  2. Have the parishes’ building and grounds teams do an assessment of each campus and identify capital needs.
  3. Look at the financial health of the parishes and determine strategies to strengthen them.
- After a recommendation by Fr. John Firpo, the composition of the Steering Committee was set: Fr. Bill Coffas and Fr. Lee Chase as the two Deans within our parishes, Dcn. Frank Pettrone as our local Pastoral Administrator, a member from the Evangelization Committee, a member from Vocations Committees, and either the Web Administrator or his backup.
- Steering Team to meet 2-3 times a year.
- After the Steering Committee is in existence, it should be evaluated with adaptations made if necessary—e.g. if the group says it needs more Pastor input.
- Action: Fr. Chase will convene the Steering Committee and set the date of the first meeting.
- Final comments:
  - It will be important for members to know the plan and to ensure that it is followed.
  - The Task Force would like communications from the Steering Committee quarterly or every 6 months. There should also be regular communication with parishioners at large.
  - This is a good outcome since we are getting something with which the pastoral leaders are comfortable.
  - Joe DiVincenzo suggested that our parishes need to reach out to those who have pulled away during Covid and to the unchurched. Karen said these are focus audiences for the efforts of the 7-parish evangelization team, but that action was deferred until the diocesan-wide census was completed and they had updated contact information.
  - The Steering Committee might be able to help with this effort.

**Blessing of Task Force members by Fr. Lee Chase**