

## **7-Parish Vocations Committee Notes February 26, 2025**

Present: **Holy Cross:** Mary Ann DeLucenay, **Our Mother of Sorrows:** Rick Cammilleri, **St. Charles Borromeo:** Mark Stechschulte, **St. John the Evangelist:** Rick Paoletti, **St. Lawrence:** Deacon Ed Giblin, **St. Leo the Great:** Neil Combs, **St. Mark's:** Lorraine Vancour, **Facilitator/Link to the Pastoral Planning Task Force:** Karen Rinefierd

Purpose of this group: to develop and implement strategies for the 7 parishes to work together to encourage vocations—in general, to the priesthood/diaconate, to religious life, to lay ecclesial ministry

**Opening prayer:** Prayer for Pope Francis, 1 Cor 15:58, intercessory prayers, Our Father

### **Update on the work of the Pastoral Planning Task Force: Karen Rinefierd**

- The task force sent its recommendation to Bishop Matano in January and received a response from him shortly after. The task force was asked to present at the Presbyteral Council meeting on March 11. The two deans who are Pastors within our area (Fr. Lee Chase and Fr. Bill Coffas) and one or two lay members of the task force will attend.
- This was the last meeting of the task force which will be succeeded by a steering committee to coordinate the collaborative work of 7-parish committees. The new committee will include the two deans, Dcn. Frank Petrone who is our local pastoral administrator, and a representative from each of the 7-parish committees (currently vocations and evangelization).

### **Fostering vocations to the priesthood—Evaluation of the Fisher Dinner on Monday, December 30 at Our Mother of Sorrows**

- It was good to hear the stories of priests and seminarians of how their vocations came to be.
- The Bishop was present.
- Members appreciated being able to attend the Mass.
- This was a good team effort (set up, serving, and clean up) which was coordinated by Donna Petrella.

### **Fostering vocations to the priesthood—“Adopt a Seminarian”**

- Seminarians designated for each parish to adopt:
  - All 7 parishes: Anthony Nicolosi (since he is a parishioner of St. Leo's and his mother works at both St. Leo's and St. Mark's)
  - Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows: David Cataline and Dcn. George Bastedo
  - St. Charles Borromeo: Edward Fantauzzo
  - St. John the Evangelist: Joseph Maurer
  - St. Lawrence: Charles Moskov
  - St. Leo the Great: Daniel Spears
  - St. Mark's: Michael Piersall
- St. Leo's has sent cards to Anthony Nicolosi who is one of their parishioners.

- This initiative didn't get off the ground as early as we had hoped because of all the work the leaders and pastoral planning task force were doing last fall.
- Since the seminarians will be home in May, we will start a group-wide effort in September. It might be good to have a standard bulletin article to introduce our parishioners to this effort (e.g. why we are doing it, not to send food).
- Action: for now, vocations committee members will write individually to Anthony and whomever was designated for their parish. At the beginning of Lent seemed to be a good time for correspondence. Letters/cards should thank them for their willingness to discern a vocation and thank them on behalf of our parishes. Another suggestion was to state that we need holy priests.

**Develop displays about vocations for all 7 parishes (Holy Cross and Our Mother of Sorrows already have these)**

- Members from St. Charles Borromeo, St. John the Evangelist, St. Lawrence, St. Leo the Great, and St. Mark's received the brochures purchased from Vianney Vocations for their parishes.
- All 7 parishes also received the following:
  - Brochures about the permanent diaconate
  - A brochure from the Sisters of St. Joseph
  - (We will have a similar one from the Sisters of Mercy by our May meeting.)
- Karen will email the pastoral leaders to let them know where this initiative stands and copy in vocations committee members. She will attach the brochure about the vocation of marriage prepared for us by Don Smith, diocesan Coordinator of Sacramental Catechesis and Family Life.
- Members of the vocations committee will work with their pastoral leader to prepare the vocations display and will occasionally monitor it and replace materials as needed.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 PM, in room 7 of the Borromeo Ministry Center**

One agenda item: what will this committee do next?

**Closing prayer: Hail Mary**