

7-Parish Vocations Committee Notes September 5, 2024

Present: **Holy Cross:** Mary Ann DeLucenay, **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

Excused: **Our Mother of Sorrows:** Rick Cammilleri, **St. Charles Borromeo:** Mark Stechschulte,

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: James 2:1-5, faith sharing, intercessory prayers, Our Father

Fostering vocations to the permanent diaconate—Holy Hour followed by a presentation on the permanent diaconate

- Thursday, October 3 at St. Mark's—Holy Hour 5:30-6:30 pm, information session to follow
- Rick Paoletti will not be able to be present (it's his wedding anniversary).
- The Holy Hour will finish with Benediction and probably include a talk in the middle.
- An article about the permanent diaconate is in the September issue of the Courier, accompanied by a 10/3 advertisement.
- Ed has extended invitations to our local deacons, all deacons throughout the diocese, and inquirers. We are hoping that Dcn. Alex DeLucenay and his wife will be able to come. Ed will introduce the deacons who are present for the information session.
- Tentative list of who is bringing what refreshments for the information session:
 - Mary Ann: pizza rounds from Guida's
 - Lorraine: brownies, a veggie tray, cherry cake squares, crockpot of meatballs and cocktail weiners (she will bring disposable bowls and plastic forks)
 - Neil: a charcuterie tray
- Karen will check with Dcn. Frank Pettrone regarding paper goods and beverages. Also about room set up to include tables.

Fostering vocations to the priesthood—hosting a Fisher Dinner

- No new information from Fr. Bill Coffas

Fostering vocations to the priesthood—“Adopt a Seminarian”

- Seminarrians designated for each parish to adopt:
 - All 7 parishes: Anthony Nicolosi (since he is a parishioner of St. Mark'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
- Karen will send the names and addresses of this year's seminarians to committee members. She will also contact the pastoral leaders about this initiative.
- There needs to be a letter to each seminarian explaining that the parishes are doing this, that we do not expect responses, and to learn if they want care packages.
- Parishioners also need to be told not to expect responses. Maybe start with cards and letters only.
- It would be good to include school students in this effort.

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

- Neil confirmed that he has spoken with Fr. Joe Catanise who has given his approval for a display at St. Leo's.
- Mary Ann will speak again with Sr. Kathy O'Connell from the Sisters of Mercy. Evidently the Mercy sister who coordinates vocations is still in South America. [Done after the meeting.]
- Ed will speak again with Sr. Donna DelSanto of the Sisters of St. Joseph to acquire brochures. [Done after the meeting.]
- We want a small number of brochures so there are 10-20 for each parish. There was a suggestion that each congregation provide us with 175 brochures (25 per parish) so that supplies on the displays can be replenished as needed.
- Karen distributed an updated list of materials for the displays. She will include this in an email to the pastoral leaders and inquire if they want any bulk orders to save money.
- We will use the USCCB brochures on the permanent diaconate until they run out.
- Karen distributed copies of a brochure on marriage prepared specially for our parishes by Don Smith, diocesan Coordinator of Sacramental Catechesis and Family Life. Parishes will be able to print their own.
- Karen said that there is excellent information about lay ecclesial ministry in an FAQ on the USCCB website. She has asked for permission to use it in a local brochure but has not yet heard back.

Incorporate a vocation talk into faith formation or youth ministry

- All parish catechetical leaders (other than Danielle Hubbel at St. Leo's who is still on limited maternity leave) have been contacted. Vocations are incorporated into their curricula. In addition, St. Mark's, in their summer program, included a talk by new seminarian Anthony Nicolosi while Fr. Lou Sirianni shared the story of his own decision to become a priest.
- Neil will contact Danielle Hubbel when that is possible.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 13, in room 7 of the Borromeo Ministry Center

Closing prayer: Hail Mary