

Charlotte/Greece/Hilton Pastoral Planning Task Force
Tuesday, January 7, 2025 @ St. Mark's

ATTENDING: Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows: Fr. William Coffas, **Holy Cross:** Joseph DiVincenzo, Amy Mulcahy, **Our Mother of Sorrows:** David Witkoski, **St. Charles Borromeo:** Fr. John Firpo, David Steklenski, **St. John the Evangelist:** Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu, Paul Parkman, Nick Verdino, **St. Lawrence:** Steve Amico, Jeri Rombaut, **St. Leo the Great:** Fr. Joseph Catanise, David Jones, Barbara Surash, **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. Justin Miller, **Our Mother of Sorrows:** Marc Boeh; **St. Lawrence:** Fr. Lee Chase; **St. Charles Borromeo:** Gina Reeder

Prayer (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22) faith sharing, intercessory prayers, the Lord's Prayer

Determining logistics for sending the recommendation to the Bishop

- Father Lee Chase, who is ill this evening, volunteered to draft a cover letter to the Bishop to accompany the recommendation.
- Karen will create one final draft of the recommendation after this evening and send it to everyone on the Task Force with the draft cover letter for one last review.
- Then the recommendation with the cover letter will go to the Bishop. Once he responds, we will publish these on the Roc Catholics Northwest website and there will be a bulletin article.

Reviewing the input submitted by parishioners after the November 20 parishioner meetings

- Most people used online submissions although a few returned hard copies.
- After Father John and Father Bill talked about their experiences with clustering, many questions were generated. Parishioners have asked if there is a "lessons learned" document at the diocese to help future parishes clustering. Karen responded that most of the knowledge is in her head since she supported most of the clustering across the diocese and that she did a capstone project as part of a graduate degree at St. John Fisher where she interviewed people involved in diverse situations in our diocese. That information needs to be updated with the experience of more recent clusters. A parishioner at Holy Cross has offered to compile a Lessons Learned document with Karen. Hopefully that can be done this spring, and we would share it with the diocese as a resource which could help others.
- Agreement to eliminate one comment (a reference to a former pastoral administrator) from the document of compiled parishioner input and put the revised document on the Roc Catholics Northwest website. There was agreement that the statement submitted was not fair to that person or pastoral administrators in general.
- Many parishioners expressed appreciation for the work of the task force.

Finalizing the recommendation to the Bishop:

- Add a sentence in the Introduction stating that the planning of the task force has been a local effort and not a request of the bishop.
- Add Samir Agic as shared maintenance for St. Leo and St. Mark's.
- Shawn Mascho no longer works for St. Lawrence, St. Leo, and St. Mark's in the finance office.
- Make sure the distance chart is all on one page.

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Initial discussion on transitioning from the work of this Task Force to ongoing collaboration among the seven parishes

- Agreement that our seven parishes need to have a Steering/Coordinating Committee to continue coordinating collaboration after the Task Force ends. We need to figure out its responsibilities and structure. The work on evangelization and vocations needs to continue as well as the Roc Catholics Northwest website.
- Possibilities for the future:
 - Another shared Lenten retreat
 - An Advent penance service
 - Fun activities for people across the 7 parishes so more get to know each other
 - Spiritual activities
 - Events for young families so we have a critical mass.
 - We need to be creative and build activities that bring people together.
- As we move from the Task Force to this new Steering/Coordinating Committee, there is no pressure for people to continue.
- Fr. Peter recommended that we all read "Hope Does Not Disappoint," Pope Francis' letter to the faithful beginning the Jubilee Year 2025:
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html
- We need to accompany and listen to others. Perhaps a Local Synod coming together, praying and talking about the crucial issues within our parish communities and opportunities to spread the Gospel.
- **Homework to organize a Steering/Coordinating Committee –please send your input to Karen by Monday, January 20**
 - What should the committee be called?
 - How many members from each parish and what time commitment (e.g. 1 year, 2 years)?
 - What would its responsibilities be?
 - Each Task Force member also needs to discern their own future regarding collaboration among the 7 parishes. Do we want to step aside now that the work of the Task Force is ending? Be a part of the Steering/Coordinating Committee? Join either the Vocations or Evangelization Committees? Other? **Please let your pastoral leader and Karen know when you have reached a decision.**

After the last Task Force meeting, Fr. Joe Catanise proposed hosting a closing celebration—do we want to do that? If so, date and time?

- Since Fr. Catanise needed to leave the meeting early, we will arrange this offline.