

7-Parish Vocations Committee Notes April 24, 2024

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, **Facilitator/Link to the Pastoral Planning Task Force:** Karen Rinefierd

Excused: **St. Leo the Great:** Neil Combs, **St. Mark's:** Lorraine Vancour,

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

Continue development of action steps to foster vocations to the priesthood

Action #1: Coordinate efforts with the existing diocesan vocations awareness team

- After reading our last minutes, Fr. Bill Coffas said that he was happy to meet with the vocations committee to discuss how we can best help the diocesan effort. He gave two possible dates when he could meet: Tuesdays, 6/4 and 6/18.
- The preference of those present was 6/4 but Karen will check with Neil and Lorraine before finalizing the date. [The meeting date is now confirmed for 6/4.]

Action #3: Develop displays about vocations for all 7 parishes (Holy Cross and Our Mother of Sorrows already have these)

- We want to include vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, religious life, and lay ecclesial ministry. We want information from the Sisters of St. Joseph and Sisters of Mercy. Action: Ed will contact either Sr. Francella or Sr. Donna DelSanto. Mary Ann will contact Sr. Kathy O'Connell.
- What is the budget for materials? First let's see what materials are free.
- Ed had previously shared a brochure on the permanent diaconate prepared by the USCCB, but the deacon office no longer exists. We could seek permission to use their content. Ed has a budget and could see if the *Catholic Courier* could print brochures.
- Action: Karen will send photos of the Holy Cross display which she had previously taken to the committee.
- We need to check with the pastoral leaders of the remaining parishes to receive permission for these displays and where they would have space at their churches. Action: Mark will contact Fr. John Firpo, Rick P. will contact Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu, Ed will contact Fr. Lee Chase, Neil will contact Fr. Joe Catanise, and Lorraine will contact Dcn. Frank Pettrone.

Action #2: Incorporate a vocation talk into faith formation or youth ministry

- Lorraine has had contact with Dcn. Frank Pettrone and Kris Burgio.
- Action: Mark will contact Amanuel Malik (faith formation director for Holy Cross, Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Charles Borromeo, and St. Lawrence) to talk about incorporating this lesson into the 2024-2025 faith formation/youth ministry season. Depending on that conversation, we may also need to contact the individual youth ministers: Donna Gray (St. Charles and St. Lawrence), Donna Jacobi (Holy Cross), and Cindy Lammes (Our Mother of Sorrows).

Action plan to foster vocations to the permanent diaconate

- Agreement to have an event in the fall: start with a Holy Hour open to all to pray for vocations. This would be followed by a presentation about the different facets of the permanent diaconate (Word, Altar, and Service) including a sampling of the different ministries in which deacons are involved.
- We will encourage the priests and deacons to invite and accompany men and their wives.
- Although the second Sunday of October would be the logical time to hold this, it falls over the Columbus Day weekend and the pastoral planning task force just set a gathering of the pastoral councils and finance councils for Tuesday, 10/15. Therefore, our first choice is Sunday, October 6 in the evening. Action: Karen will contact the 7 pastoral leaders regarding this proposed date and, if it is good, make sure it gets on parish calendars. Once the date is confirmed, Karen will let Ed know so he can communicate with all of our local permanent deacons.
- Possible locations: St. Lawrence, St. Mark, and St. Charles Borromeo.

Possible times to highlight vocations within our parishes

There are several national or international dates which we could tie to local efforts:

- Deacon Sunday (the second Sunday of October)
- National Vocation Awareness Week (November)—focused on vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life
- The World Day of Prayer for Vocations (April)
- May—within the Diocese of Rochester, this is the time when anniversaries of priests and religious are highlighted and most often when ordinations to priesthood or diaconate are celebrated.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 4 at 7:00 pm, in room 7 of the Borromeo Ministry Center at St. Charles. Fr. Bill Coffas from the diocesan Vocations Awareness Committee will join us.

Closing prayer: Hail Mary