

7-Parish Vocations Committee

Notes April 7, 2026

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

Excused: **Our Mother of Sorrows:** Rick Cammilleri

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: sharing “Where did I find God this Holy Week or Easter?” followed by intercessory prayers
and the Our Father

Neil said that he and his wife have sold their house and plan to move to Lewiston in mid-May. He is talking to those on St. Leo's vocation committee to see if someone is able to take his place. We will miss him. [After the meeting, Terri Nicolosi agreed to join our committee and also chair the St. Leo's vocation committee. Her son Anthony is currently a seminarian.]

Fostering vocations to lay ecclesial ministry—interviewing local lay ecclesial ministers

- Interviews already completed: Donna Gray, Patty Gorman, Tod Simone, Mary Toot
- Updates on others we had planned to interview:
 - Kristine Burgio—not at this time since she is dealing with health issues
 - Sr. Laurie Orman (Principal of Holy Cross School) – has agreed to an interview
 - Marcia Parsons (Secretary at St. John the Evangelist) – has agreed to an interview
 - Lee Ventrella (Parish Minister for Homebound/Hospital Visitation at St. Charles Borromeo) – Mark will contact
- Added to the list:
 - Stephanie Oswald (Catechetical Coordinator at St. Mark's): Lorraine will contact her in June, after the celebrations of First Holy Communion and before the July/August summer vacation programs.
 - Nina Rivera (Director of Youth Ministry and OCIA Coordinator and sacramental preparation at St. Leo's): Neil will contact her.
 - Anna Flaitz (formerly Catechetical Coordinator for four of our parishes and now Middle School Campus Minister at McQuaid): Karen will contact her.
- The introductory article about lay ecclesial ministry will be in bulletins the weekend of April 26-27. Soon after then we will start having monthly articles with condensed interviews and post the full interview on the Roc Catholics Northwest website.

Continued discussion of ideas raised at the January meeting

Something with altar servers

- Decided not to pursue this since not all parishes currently have altar servers and many of those in this role are girls.

A traveling chalice

- Neil reported that St. Leo's has implemented this recently. Members of the Knights of Columbus took the chalice to start this initiative, and now families are signed up through mid-July. Neil will share the materials the parish developed.
- Maybe we could do this across all seven parishes.

Manipulatives for younger children

- Mary Ann shared with the committee an Autom catalog which includes several appropriate materials— e.g. a Holy Mass playset, an Adoration playset, What I see at Church activity card, Learning the Liturgical Colors Priest with Chasubles Set
- [After the meeting Karen looked at the list of Resources for Sharing Faith with Children on the Roc Catholics Northwest website and added the following from Shining Light Dolls—wooden baptism play set, wooden Catholic Church play set. These are more expensive.]
- Some possibilities for how these could be used:
 - Given to the religious education programs or preschool programs
 - Available at Masses for children to use
 - We could set materials up and see if people want to buy any
 - Could be sent home with the traveling chalice if it's a family with younger children who takes the chalice

the Melchizedech Project

- Neil did more research and learned that this is more suitable for an entire diocese rather than a group of parishes. Our diocesan vocation awareness team does use their materials and the Melchizedech Project could conceivably be a resource for us for materials.

A time for people across the seven parishes to gather and pray for vocations

- The committee is interested in a shared Mass with Bishop Bonnici for the seven parishes. We will pursue this further with our pastoral leaders and after the bishop has had time to settle in a bit.
- Neil shared that St. Leo's is considering inviting parishioners to one of their Wednesday times for Adoration to pray specifically for vocations. Perhaps an invitation could be extended to parishioners of the other parishes.

Create videos of local priests, deacons, and lay ecclesial ministers to talk about how they discerned their vocation

- We have not yet identified anyone locally with the skill set to create these videos. Some possibilities: an Eagle project, asking Anna Flaitz at McQuaid if there are any interested students, asking Anita Nagle at Aquinas to check there
- If we move ahead with producing videos, we would publish them on the Roc Catholics Northwest website and possibly offer them to the parishes' social media or faith formation classes.
- Both Fr. Lou Sirianni and Fr. Aaron Kelly have said that they began considering the priesthood at a young age. We could ask any we interview what triggered their interest in the priesthood and when they began thinking about this vocation.

Fostering vocations to the permanent diaconate—sponsoring another Holy Hour to pray for vocations followed by an informational session for men and their wives interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate

- Ed said that he is working on setting up an informational meeting in Watkins Glen for the fall. It might be good to offer ours in late summer or early fall.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 3, 7:00 PM, room 7 of the Borromeo Ministry Center

Closing prayer: Hail Mary