

7-Parish Vocations Committee

Notes June 3, 2026

Present: **St. Charles Borromeo:** Mark Stechschulte, **St. John the Evangelist:** Rick Paoletti, **St. Lawrence:** Deacon Ed Giblin, **St. Leo the Great:** Theresa Nicolosi, **St. Mark's:** Lorraine Vancour, **facilitator:** Karen Rinefierd

Excused: **Holy Cross:** Mary Ann DeLucenay, **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 see God today?” followed by intercessory prayers and the Our Father

Welcome to new member Terri Nicolosi and introductions

Creating a section on the Roc Catholics Northwest website for vocations awareness

- Karen asked if the committee felt this was worthwhile. Currently we have interviews with lay ecclesial ministers posted but no section dedicated to vocations.
- Those present thought this was a good idea. Links to be included:
 - <https://dorvocations.org/> (information for those interested in pursuing priesthood and their parents, upcoming events, resources, and general information about discernment)
 - <https://www.dor.org/vocations/deacons/> (the Office of the Permanent Diaconate section on the diocesan website)
 - <https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/permanent-diaconate> (the section of the USCCB website about the permanent diaconate)
 - <https://www.vocationministry.com/> (information and resources about vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life, and sacramental marriage)
 - <https://www.ssjrochester.org/steps-to-becoming-a-sister> (Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester)
 - <https://sistersofmercy.org/ways-to-get-involved/become-a-sister/> (Sisters of Mercy)
 - <https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/vocations> (USCCB web page about vocations to priesthood and religious life; includes resources, tools for parents, and tools for Catholic educators and youth leaders)
- Action: Karen will work with our webmaster, Dcn. Dave Squilla, to get this done over the summer.

Selecting any additional actions we want to undertake based on our discussions over the last two meetings

A traveling chalice done at all 7 parishes

- Neil Combs gave us all the materials that St. Leo's is using which we can adapt for our own usage.
- We know that several of the other parishes have done something similar in the past.
- Action: Karen will run this idea past the six pastoral leaders to see if this is possible.

A shared Mass with Bishop Bonnici to pray for vocations

- The committee wants this to happen.
- Action: Karen will contact the pastoral leaders to get their feedback and so that they can decide which of them would extend an invitation to the bishop.
- We are thinking during the fall. However, if the bishop wants to hold this earlier, we will hold our next meeting earlier so that we can plan details of the Mass.

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

- No one on the committee has the technical knowhow to do this. We think the videos could be filmed on a phone, but someone would need to edit them.
- Several recommendations for who could help the committee find someone to do this were previously suggested and are included in the 4/7/26 committee minutes. Another possibility would be to get suggestions from Vincent Mussemuci, the communications coordinator at St. Charles, who is attending school at RIT.
- The committee decided first to approach Don Smith, diocesan Coordinator of Sacramental Catechesis and Family Life, and Kristen Smith, Catholic campus minister at RIT. Action: Karen will contact them for guidance.
- Potential questions for those appearing in videos:
 - When did you start thinking about your vocation?
 - Who supported you in making your decision?
 - If someone is interested in pursuing this vocation, where would you steer them for guidance?
- We want to show variations in the paths for discerning a vocation.
- Types of vocations to include in videos: priest, permanent deacon, lay ecclesial minister, religious sisters. Action: committee members to send Karen their suggested person to include in each of these categories.

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

- Already in bulletins with full interview on the ROC Catholics Northwest website: Donna Gray
- Next interview to be published: Patty Gorman
- Other interviews already done: Tod Simone, Mary Toot
- Those others who have agreed to interviews (with the name of the committee member “nudging them” and staying in touch with them):
 - Sr. Laurie Orman—Mary Ann
 - Marcia Parsons—Rick Paoletti
 - Anna Flaitz—Karen
 - Stephanie Oswald—Lorraine
 - Lee Ventrella—Mark
- Action: Terri will contact Nina Rivera about contributing an interview. [Since the meeting Nina has agreed to an interview.]

Fostering vocations to the permanent diaconate—sponsoring an informational session for men and their wives interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate

- Ed plans to schedule this for this fall.
- This session will be connected to a Holy Hour to pray for vocations, as we did last year, if we do not have a Mass for vocations with Bishop Bonnici.

Parish “Adopt a Seminarian” effort

- Action: In August Karen will contact Fr. Bill Coffas for the list of this year’s seminarians as well as their addresses. Then she will send to our committee and the pastoral leaders those whom each parish will “adopt.”
- Lorraine suggested mentioning the year that the seminarian is in during the communication to pastoral leaders.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 7:00 PM

Closing prayer: Hail Mary