

## 7-Parish Vocations Committee Notes June 4, 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, **St. Mark's:** Lorraine Vancour, **Facilitator/Link to the Pastoral Planning Task Force:** Karen Rinefierd

Excused: **St. Leo the Great:** Neil Combs

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: Mk 14:12-16, 22-26, faith sharing, intercessory prayers, Our Father**

**Conversation with Fr. Bill Coffas of the diocesan Vocations Awareness Team** (Action #1: Coordinate efforts with the existing diocesan Vocations Awareness Team)

Fr. Coffas shared a story that made a deep impression on him: he made a pastoral visit to a parishioner in his first assignment. She was suffering, and he remembered Saint John Paul II saying that our suffering can lead to some good when we offer it up for a special intention. He encouraged the woman to pray for vocations which she did. Two vocations to the priesthood came from that 6-parish cluster, and another man discerned a possible call to the priesthood. Fr. Coffas learned that when we want to foster vocations, prayer comes first. We should pray for vocations to the priesthood but also pray for vocations to marriage since our priests come from families.

- He spoke about the semi-annual Fisher dinners where men (high school seniors through age forty-five) who may have an interest in the priesthood gather for prayer, a meal, and fellowship. Two or three seminarians or priests are invited by the vocations awareness team to tell their own vocation stories as part of the gathering.
- He encouraged our committee and the seven parishes to sponsor one of these Fisher dinners—in December sometime between Christmas and New Year's? Perhaps our local Knights of Columbus could provide the meal.
- The diocese now has an updated website for vocations: [DORvocations.org](http://DORvocations.org). We could advertise it through the bulletins of our parishes. The website includes videos of diocesan priests talking about their priesthood. These were prepared in partnership with the *Catholic Courier*.
- During his pastoral year at Holy Cross/Our Mother of Sorrows, seminarian David Cataline created a prayer for vocations. An icon of Jesus as priest goes from house to house as families pray for vocations.
- The work being done is bearing fruit: the diocese expects four new seminarians this August: two in the college seminary in Rhode Island and two going to the major seminary, St. John's in Boston.
- Now the first year of major seminary is devoted to helping the seminarians to strengthen their relationship with Christ and learn to live in community. There is also a missionary experience, and the men may take one or two courses per semester. Use of cell phones and emails is allowed only on a limited basis to help promote face-to-face communication

and deeper prayer lives. This year is followed by the rest of seminary education and formation.

- Fr. Coffas noted that vocational work is fundamental to pastoral planning and the future of the church.
- Our diocese will have eight or nine men in the seminary this coming year. Perhaps each of our parishes could “adopt” one of them and stay in touch. We would need to remember that seminarians do not always respond to correspondence since they are kept very busy.
- The ordination of James Muscatella will be 6/29. The next Fisher dinner will be on 7/23 at St. Mary’s in Canandaigua.
- Fr. Coffas said that we should consider him to be a resource for our committee, and we thanked him for this time with us.

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

- Progress on action items from last meeting:
  - Mark still needs to 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: Mark will connect with Amanuel soon.
  - Kris Burgio (St. Mark’s) told Lorraine that she plans to incorporate the subject of vocations into this summer’s faith formation program. The information will be adapted for each age: K-grade 3, grades 4-6, grades 7-8. Then the topic will be included in faith formation in the fall.
  - We do not know if Neil has spoken with Fr. Catanise yet but, in any case, staff member Danielle Hubbel will not return from maternity leave until sometime this month.

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

- Materials will include vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, religious life, lay ecclesial ministry, and marriage.
- Mary Ann brought the list of items now in the display at Holy Cross:
  - Seven Ways Families Can Foster Vocations
  - A Call to Love: A discernment guide for Catholic women
  - Discerning Life Decisions using Ignatian principles
  - You only live once Be Holy: What’s your vocation?
  - Change the World Consider Priesthood
  - Discerning Priesthood
  - Vocation Directory (Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious)
  - Is this a call? Listening to Jesus with your heart
  - Is Jesus calling you to be a Catholic priest? A helpful guide
  - Vocation Mythbusters for Parents: 6 common fears when your son is considering priesthood
  - Discerning your vocation at Mass
  - Could I be a priest? 20 question discernment test
  - Nine Holy Hours to discern the priesthood

- Invisible Monastery.com (a worldwide community of people committed to praying for vocations)
- A Living Sacrifice: Guidance for Men Discerning Religious Life
- To Save a Thousand Souls: A Guide for Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood
- Discerning Religious Life/Mother Clare Matthias, CFR
- Vianney Vocations (vianneyvocations.com)
- Mary Ann talked with Sr. Kathy O'Connell. The sister from the Sisters of Mercy who coordinates their vocation ministry will be back soon.
- Ed talked with Donna DelSanto, SSJ—she can supply materials from the Sisters of St. Joseph.
- Rick Paoletti checked with Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu who is fine with having a display at St. John the Evangelist.
- Ed talked with Fr. Lee Chase who is fine with having a display at St. Lawrence and has a location in mind.
- Mark talked with Fr. John Firpo who is fine with having a display at St. Charles Borromeo.
- Lorraine talked with Dcn. Frank Pettrone and Kris Burgio. The top racks of an existing display will likely be devoted to the vocation resources we choose.
- Agreement to focus on booklets and pamphlets and perhaps have a list of recommended books.
- We may ask the *Catholic Courier* to work with us to produce a brochure encouraging vocations to the permanent diaconate. Ed does have a number of the brochures previously produced by the USCCB.
- Decision to include resources for Catholic marriage.
- Next steps:
  - Create a list of items to include and research costs/any permissions needed.
  - Share the content and costs with the pastoral leaders for their approval.

**Fostering vocations to the permanent diaconate: Holy Hour followed by a presentation about the permanent diaconate with time for questions/answers**

- Deacon Frank Pettrone suggested the date of Thursday, October 3 and offered to host this event at St. Mark's. His guidance was that a Sunday evening, as we originally considered, was difficult for current deacons since they wish to spend time with family after weekend Masses.
- The committee thought this made sense.
- Action: Karen will run the date past the pastoral leaders for their approval.
- Once we have a confirmed date, Ed will share it with the deacons of our seven parishes.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, July 30, at St. Charles Borromeo (room 3 of the Borromeo Ministry Center)**

**Closing prayer: Hail Mary**