

7-Parish Vocations Committee

Notes September 24, 2025

Present: **Holy Cross:** Mary Ann DeLucenay, **St. Charles Borromeo:** Mark Stechschulte, **St. Lawrence:** Deacon Ed Giblin, **St. Leo the Great:** Neil Combs, **St. Mark's:** Lorraine Vancour, **Facilitator/Link to the Pastoral Planning Task Force:** Karen Rinefierd

Excused: **Our Mother of Sorrows:** Rick Cammilleri, **St. John the Evangelist:** Rick Paoletti

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: Luke 16:19-31, intercessory prayers, Our Father

Fostering vocations to the priesthood—sponsoring another diocesan Fisher Dinner

- The next one will be Monday, December 29—Mass at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:30 pm.
- The Holy Cross Knights of Columbus are preparing dinner and we have been asked to help with set up and clean up.
- Fr. Bill Coffas shared that last year more than 25 young men attended and one of them is now in the seminary.

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

- A permanent deacon class just started in formation and the next will not begin until 2027. Therefore, there is no need to have this event right now. Perhaps in the spring?
- St. Lawrence is the first choice for location followed by St. Mark's again. Neil suggested St. Leo's, but the committee prefers to keep this in a central location.
- Two men who attended last year's program, which was held after they discussed the diaconate with Dcn. Ed Giblin, are now in formation.

Fostering vocations to lay ecclesial ministry (LEM)

- Karen is still working on a brochure for the parish vocation displays. She has incorporated information from the USCCB and plans to add information from St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry. Ed suggested adding information about the classes available to parishes through the Catechetical Institute and Franciscan at Home platform of Franciscan University of Steubenville. Karen will contact Leslie Barkin at the diocese to see how the different tracks are being used to train people for lay ecclesial ministry.
- Karen had previously shared with the committee a list of the laypersons currently working in our parishes in a ministry-related way—e.g. not in finance or human resources.
- The committee decided to have short bulletin articles about particular lay ecclesial ministers who serve in one or more of our parishes. There will be a link and QR code to a longer interview with the LEM which will be posted on the Roc Catholics Northwest website.
- Action: committee members will submit to Karen possible interview questions before the next committee meeting.

- The committee decided to have articles/interviews representing different ministries and as many of our parishes as possible. Those mentioned:
 - James Sarkis (new Faith Formation Director for Holy Cross, Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Charles Borromeo and St. Lawrence)
 - Donna Gray (Regional Youth Minister for St. Lawrence and St. Charles Borromeo) with Cindy Lammes (Our Mother of Sorrows) as back up
 - Tod Simone (Pastoral Minister at St. John the Evangelist) for ministry to the homebound/visitation (although his position encompasses much more)
 - Kristine Burgio (Pastoral Associate at St. Mark's) or Patty Gorman (Director of Music and Liturgy at St. Leo the Great) for funeral ministry.

Fostering vocations to the priesthood— “Adopt a Seminarian”

- Articles inviting parishioners to participate in this effort will be in bulletins the weekend of September 27-28.

Parish vocations displays for all 7 parishes—how to communicate about the existence of these more effectively

- Decision to have a short bulletin article reminding parishioners to check the resources available on these displays. [After the meeting Karen did more research and learned that November 2-8 is Vocations Awareness Week, so the plan is now to have this article in bulletins the weekend of November 1-2.
- We will ask priests and deacons to plug these displays anytime they preach on vocations.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 22, 7:00 PM, in room 7 of the Borromeo Ministry Center

Closing prayer: Hail Mary