

WHEAT Scattered and Sown Family of Parishes Pillar Chair Meeting
December 12, 2023

PRESENT: Paul Voytovich, Susan Boyle, Denise York, Deacon Marty Hackford, Tammy Stanek, Deborah Keenan, and Fr. Jerry Skrzynski

Prayer: Fr. Jerry led an opening prayer.

Welcome: Debbie Keenan was welcomed as the Life in the Eucharist Chair and Annunciation representative to the Pillar Chairs. She serves as the Pastoral Association for Ministry at Annunciation.

Pastor Update: Fr. Jerry shared the Christmas Mass Schedule. He noted that some changes had to be made based on availability of additional priests. Two Mass times had to be pushed back 30 minutes to allow for travel time. He is grateful that Fr. Bob Wardenski can help with the Masses too. The schedule will be posted tomorrow.

Liturgy Pillar: The work for continuity continues with the Eucharistic Ministers. Hopefully the changes will be put in place starting in January. The priest will have the low-gluten Precious Body for distribution at all five parishes to avoid confusion.

Spiritual Life asked when Altar Servers will be trained at St. George's, and it was noted that there is discontinuity for the Altar Servers too. Fr. Jerry said that the priests and Liturgy Pillar will move to addressing that next. They had to start with the Eucharistic Ministers.

OutReach/InReach Pillar: They are reviewing the spreadsheet of parish offerings so they can determine how best to implement and plan efforts going forward across the Family. That way they can set three year goals.

Sr. Louise Alff, Evangelization Consultant to the Road to Renewal, is coming to their meeting in February to help them with their work.

Spiritual Life Pillar: A committee to plan Life in the Eucharist has been formed. It will be held on Sunday's at 2pm to allow for all ages (including those who do not like to drive at night) to participate. It will begin on February 18th and one session will be held at each of the five parishes. All three of our priests will introduce the speaker at a session, and Fr. Gene Ulrich and Fr. Bob Wardenski (retired pastors of Annunciation and Immaculate Conception) will do the introductions at two sessions. The witness speakers at each of the sessions will come from within each of the parishes. Feb. 18, Feb. 25, Mar.3, Mar. 10 and Mar. 17 are the program dates. They are targeting this fall as the time to offer Alpha which is an outreach/evangelization effort the diocese wants every Family to offer. Spiritual Life will work with the OutReach/InReach Pillar on this.

Forming Disciples Pillar: Our plan is to offer it at all 4 current sites. However, we will be using the same curriculum for grades K-6 at this point so that families can attend at a different Family

Faith Formation session if they have to miss the one at their parish. Traditional classroom model will continue to be offered at Immaculate Conception so people have options. Fr. Bryan told us that we can offer all models in order to meet the people's needs.

The Faith Fest (grades K-8) session will be offered at the 3 larger parishes three times in the coming year. Currently it is offered twice at Immaculate Conception in November and March. Combining our staff efforts will (hopefully!) allow us to offer it three times a year.

- Faith Fest is different than a regular Family Faith Formation session because it is two hours in length and has a different variety of activities that make it more of a special event.

Wed., Feb. 7th is our Listening Session at Immaculate Conception in the Church. It will be open to families from all parishes. We will share our tentative plan for 2023-2024 Faith Formation to get their input/feedback. We are having it at Immaculate Conception so we can put it on both Facebook and YouTube. The recording on YouTube will allow people to provide input/feedback if they cannot attend in person.

We looked at the current faith formation building use for the purposes of located the central hub office of our Family. Annunciation uses every classroom including the stage of their school building when they have Faith Formation. St. Vincent uses all of their classrooms, but seemed to have more open rooms for multipurpose use. Julie (Faith Formation Director) noted that there is room in their Faith Formation Office if someone wanted to add a desk/office space within it too.

Regarding the setting of one registration and sacramental fee for the Family, we are examining the current expenses in each of the programs and the potential costs of the shared curriculum going forward.

Administration Pillar: The location of the Family Central Hub is still being considered. The Faith Formation use of the buildings is an important consideration.

The Family website is still in progress.

Fr. Jerry will be at their January meeting to help with their process.

Stewardship Pillar: There was no report since Nancy Palumbo was unable to join us as planned. Next Meeting Date: January 31st at Immaculate Conception
Deacon Marty led us in a closing prayer.

WHEAT Scattered and Sown Family of Parishes Pillar Chair Meeting November 8, 2023

PRESENT: Martha Librock, Nancy Palumbo, Paul Voytovich, Susan Boyle, Denise York, Deacon Marty Hackford, Tammy Stanek, and Fr. Jerry Skrzynski

Prayer: Fr. Jerry led an opening prayer.

Introductions: Since this was the first meeting, everyone introduced themselves.

Pastor Update: Fr. Jerry shared that the Administration Pillar was in the process of determining our Family of Parishes name so that the Family website could launch. A website company that designed and hosts sites for one of the parishes is working on the new website.

It was suggested that the Family Name process be opened up to all of the people in the five parishes. This would allow for the people to feel a sense of ownership in the process. Other Family of Parishes have opened up the name process, so we there are examples to follow. Fr. Jerry agreed to let the people give input and vote on the name. It will be announced that weekend to allow time for people to submit possible names. Voting will take place Christ the King weekend at all the Masses, and then the new Family Name will be announced on the First Sunday of Advent. We will begin the new liturgical year with our new Family Name.

Liturgy Pillar: The new Mass schedule is in place and will be evaluated at six months. We have to see how the travel time works with the winter weather.

Currently the Pillar is working on creating uniformity for the Eucharistic Ministers at all five parishes. It is confusing with the different practices at each of the parishes and the three different priests.

Stewardship Pillar: Each of the parishes shared their current efforts. The Co-Chairs are meeting with Fr. Jerry to determine their next steps.

Spiritual Life Pillar: They compiled a chart of all five parishes current offerings for spiritual life. They are working on the Life in the Eucharist program which will be offered for all five parishes in the spring. The diocese wants every Family to offer this program.

Forming Disciples Pillar: The Pillar established a goal statement for their efforts: To build a strong community, address contemporary challenges, provide substantive content, create heart-centered experiences, make faith engaging, and be a welcoming and inclusive space for individuals of all ages to explore and share their faith.

Currently three-year goals have been set for Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry. Adult Faith Formation goals were not set because of the overlap with Spiritual Life

The Faith Formation Leaders of all five parishes have been meeting together since March so they have an idea of each others' programs. This information is being shared within the Pillar.

One of the challenging tasks is to create one set fee for Faith Formation across the five parishes because there is a range of per family, per student and no fee at all within the family.

The Administration Pillar was asked about any budget impacts for parishes with higher fees currently because with this range the fee will most likely be less than the current highest.

The Pillar is also looking at the five-year trends by grade in each parish. Below are the total numbers as of November 2023. More families are returning post-Covid, so the numbers may increase.

Current registered Faith Formation students per parish are: Immaculate Faith Formation: 210
Annunciation Faith Formation: 139
St. Vincent de Paul Faith Formation: 103

St. Joseph: 36 (records/logistics being coordinated by Immaculate Conception) St. George: 0
(not offering faith formation this year)

Immaculate Conception School: 167

OutReach/InReach Pillar: They created a chart of the current efforts across all five parishes. Currently all five parishes are participating in the Fall Collection that was initiated at Immaculate Conception. Monetary donations are being collected to purchase gift cards for FISH, Response to Love, Bread of Life and Catholic Charities Immigration and Resettlement.

Administration Pillar: The central hub office for the Family will either be at Annunciation or St. Vincent de Paul. They are still trying to figure out which one would work better. Fr. Jerry noted that no building modifications may be made at this time due to the Chapter 11 status of the diocese, so we need to work with the existing building structures.

They were also tasked with figuring out how to fairly compensate/pay the Family priests. They created a formula that takes a percentage of the collections of all five parishes to do this in as fair and just a way as possible.

Concern: We noted that none of the Pillar Chairs are from Annunciation. Next Meeting Date: December 12th at Immaculate Conception
Fr. Jerry led us in a closing prayer.