



General Minutes from Lake/Geauga District Meeting November 12, 2018

Prayer/Lunch/Welcome from Father Redmond (We had 55 members attend)

New Staff Members at Parishes/Institutions

- Father Joe Bozek – new parochial vicar at St. Gabriel
- Shari Allwood – new business manager at Divine Word
- Emily Currie Manring – will replace Jim Clements at the Lake County Catholic Charities Office, as Jim is retiring in January 2019.

Presentation on Habitat for Humanity – Kathleen Munch, Development Director

Spoke on their mission and The Apostle Build where faith communities can join together to build a house. Also, spoke to other ways that parishioners can get involved through volunteering at the ReStore, donating furniture and household items and preparing meals for work crews. Provided handouts with additional details.

Presentation on Ministry to Young Adults – Fr. Joe Fortuna, Pastor, Our Lake of the Lake Parish

Spoke on his efforts in this ministry. In the Spring, he hired, Brianna Wilson as the Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry. Brianna teaches at VASJ and works part-time at Our Lady of the Lake. Her role is a ministry of presence in an attempt to engage young adults in participation in the life of the Church. Fr. Joe shared a handout that Brianna wrote on the first six months of the ministry. He also shared a job description in an effort to assist other parishes who might want to embark on a similar position in their parishes. Table discussions followed and questions and ideas were surfaced. This is an area of ministry that all of us are trying to explore in new and creative ways.

Presentation on Divorced & Separated Ministry – Fr. Fred Pausche, Pastor, St. Gabriel

Presented overall mission of this ministry, as it has been in existence since 1997 in our District. Fr. Fred distributed a Fact Sheet outlining the ministry and ways to help. He requested all who meet with people struggling with this life stage, to direct folks to this support group. Also, looking for more board members.

Lake Geauga Ministry Discipleship Conference – Maureen Dowd and Anthony Camino

Reviewed the September 2018 conference and the evaluation results. Great, positive comments on the Bishop's keynote, the breakouts, and overall satisfaction with the conference. Reviewed the attendance by parish – we had 240 in attendance. A few parishes did not have anyone attend, and some folks found out about the conference at the last minute from their parish. Be sure to let people know, to get the word out, so that anyone who would benefit has a chance to take part. Maureen provided feedback that the Bishop shared with her on the workshop and the Lake Geauga District as a whole. As a follow up - handouts were distributed highlighting 3 talking points and 3 action steps from each breakout at the conference. Please take these back to your parishes

and review – and come back in January with thoughts on what to build on for the next year’s conference. The Agenda Committee will look at these prior to January’s meeting. It was suggested that the middle of October is a good time to hold the conference. St. John Vianney and St. Noel offered to host. Agenda Committee will work on dates and location.

Announcements

Jim Clements, Catholic Charities – Emily Currie Manring will be directing our office at Lake County and Michelle Bertman will be directing the office at Geauga County. Both come from within the Catholic Charities system with several years of experience. In addition, both live in Geauga County and are familiar with our community. I know they will do an outstanding job.

Jim described a program they are getting involved in, called “End 68 Hours of Hunger”. At least 130 children are being sent home with food on Friday so they can eat over the weekend when they are not able to take advantage of school meals.

Kelly Davis, Social Justice Office – Christmas card program is happening on 12/3. Please invite all, and let Kelly know by the end of November who will be coming for food purposes. This provided cards to nursing homes, people in prison, and more. In addition, Kelly has more Hope for Healing cards dealing with the Opioid epidemic. Prayers and resources are listed.

Lay Ecclesial Ministry Office – Bishop Perez met with Lay Ecclesial Ministers on October 27. Maureen shared that the Bishop was pleased with our program, indicating that we are much more advanced than most of the country. He asks that pastors talk to lay people who would benefit from this formation and invite them to come to the January information meeting. In addition, he encourages pastors to talk to their parishioners about the work that lay ecclesial ministers do because many do not understand this professional ministry. Handouts were provided in parish folders and information is available online.

Advent/Lent Communal Penances – Fr. Tom Sweany, Pastor, St. Anselm. Emails asking for these dates have gone out to all parishes. If you didn’t respond, please do so and we can make sure there aren’t too many conflicts.

Teresa Szary on behalf of Fr. Behrend from Immaculate Conception – Scott Hahn is coming to IC on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8.

**Next Lake/Geauga District Meeting is January 14, 11:45 am
St. John Vianney – Mentor**

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