



General Minutes from Lake/Geauga District Meeting January 14, 2019

Prayer/Lunch/Welcome from Fr. Tom Johns (We had 57 members attend)

New Staff Members at Parishes/Institutions and Guests

- Michelle Berman the new Geauga representative for Catholic Charities
- Rosemary Sisler, PSR Assistant, St. Mary Magdalene
- John Grazia, Deacon Intern at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
- Max Menkhaus, New Music Director for St. Francis of Assisi

Announcements

- Acknowledging Jim Clements and his 41 years of service to the Diocese of Cleveland. Jim is retiring from Catholic Charities as of January 17. Very instrumental in collaboration, development of Divorced and Separated Ministries.
- Father George Smiga will be leaving as Pastor of St. Noel this June. Prayers for that community and for Father George.
- Father Michael Troha has returned to the District as Pastor of Immaculate Conception in Willoughby.
- Father Peter Bang is new parochial vicar at St. Mary Painesville.

District Chairperson Update – Maureen

Maureen will conclude her 6 yr. term as chairperson in May. We can move forward with discernment of a new chairperson. Gina Rensi, DRE at Divine Word, has indicated a willingness to take on responsibilities of District Chair. Having said that, it is open to anyone who is interested, and if there are other names, a discernment will take place in March. If you are interested in considering the chairperson role, please let Maureen know.

District Chairperson Meeting – Topics for Maureen to bring up at the meeting with the Bishop

- Funeral guidelines – What is the status of these?
- Church security – Will this be looked into?
- Youth Ministry meeting – When will this be rescheduled?
- Is there a way to get current statistical/demographic information of the Diocese by district, and parish boundaries? Can we be given some sense of how pastorates are determined, how many parishes we need in various areas, etc.? Can we possibly utilize grants and use CSU as a resource to gather data?
- Church in the City Initiative – Will there be any follow up?
- Pastoral Planning Office – any plans to re-open this much-needed office?

Presentation on Hospice – Mary McGuinness (Absolute Hospice at Altercare of Mentor)

Reviewed and presented different ways of ministering to Hospice patients and to best practices for referrals. Offered her assistance to parish staff working with parishioners.

Presentation on Ministry to Young Adults – Megan Bolin from Catholic Young Adult Professionals

Megan reviewed her methods of ministry to Young Adults.

Shared that she began with focus groups and led to prayer groups. She targets young adults who recently joined the parish: single, couples, single parents, college age students. She asked them questions about what they are searching for, especially from the Church. She tries to have a monthly event with Mass, dinner or a social with Scripture study. She focuses on these key areas:

1. Treat them like adults
2. Help them to feel welcome & offer opportunities to meet others in the parish
3. Tries to have something at Church for young parents & kids to get involved in
4. Offer greater leadership opportunities (eg. Young Catholic Professionals)
5. Help them to feel accepted & loved as children of God

She knows of a hundred young professional opportunities for people in their 20's & 30's.

There is currently a coalition for Young Adults sponsored by the Sisters of Charity.

Megan presented table questions for discussion and reporting out. She also offered to come to individual parishes and help with this ministry.

Presentation of Friends of Jesus Adaptive PSR Program – Paul Kelly from St. Gabriel

Paul explained that this ministry to children with Special Needs is offered on Saturday mornings at St. Gabriel. Anyone from the district is welcome to attend, so he encouraged leaders to get the word out amongst your parishioners. We could also use more catechists and assistants for the program. He distributed brochures about the ministry with contact information.

Lake Geauga Ministry Discipleship Conference – Maureen Dowd and Anthony Camino

Building on a great Fall Discipleship Conference in 2018, we are looking ahead to the Fall Discipleship Conference for 2019. The Agenda Committee will begin working on ideas and finalize a date and location. Hopefully we can finalize that by our March meeting. We are looking for a Saturday in October, perhaps at St. Noel. Anthony will check the calendar at St. Noel for possibilities.

Announcements

Beth Rossetti on behalf of the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Office - Kathy Haag is retiring at the end of January.

Information nights for the new certification process will be Wednesday 1/16 and Tuesday 3/12. Friday, May 3, everyone is invited to a fundraiser evening for the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Office. Dinner, Fun, Games, Raffle Baskets, all for the low price of \$20. Look for invitations to come via email.

Kelly Davis, Social Justice Office – Grant applications are available on our website. If you need assistance writing the grant, please let Kelly know. Rice Bowl information sheets were included in packets. Kelly has arranged for a

speaker to come to parishes and talk about the Rice Bowl project. Please let her know if you would like to arrange a talk. Thank you for all the donations of Christmas cards for the Christmas card program. Over 3500 cards were written and sent to nursing homes, detention centers, women's shelters, etc. Catholic Commission dinner is May 4 at the CPL. Please look for information to come in the mail. Be thinking of award winners to nominate.

All Festival Meeting – Thursday, 1/17 at St. John Vianney - All festival coordinators invited to this meeting to share best practices.

Divorced and Separated – Father Fred Pausche - Support group starting Tuesday 3/12 at St. Mary in Chardon. Always looking for board members – only 2 meetings per year.

**Next Lake/Geauga District Meeting is March 11, 11:45 am
Divine Word – Kirtland**

Maureen D. Dowd
St. Gabriel Church, Pastoral Associate
Lake Geauga District Chairperson
9925 Johnnycake Ridge Rd.
Concord Township, Ohio 44060
(440) 352-8282
mdowd@st-gabriel.org