



General Minutes from Lake/Geauga District Meeting September 9, 2019

Prayer/Lunch/Welcome from Father Dave Woost (We had 57 members attend. 16/20 parishes were represented)

New Staff/New Event Updates by Parish

- OLMC- 2 temporary staff changes: Tom Ward, 1st year in Deaconate formation, Josh Cochran, Transitional Deacon. Preparing for 100 year celebration in 4 years. Considering holding an Issues Night for the 2020 election next year.
- St. Anselm- Fr. Spisak went to St. Mary Chardon
- St. Bede- Mark Rus is new Business Manager, hosting John Nelson who is a deaconate candidate. Hosting night about incivility in our communities (effects of technology, sexuality and young adults leaving the church).
- St. Edward/St. Lucy- new DRE/Youth Minister Cassie Brumbaugh. Just held first Generations of Faith night.
- St. Francis of Assisi- New Youth Minister Cari Shell, new Youth Minister. New Parochial Vicar Fr. Peter Kovacina. In residence at St. Francis is Fr. Andrew Marconics who is working in Pastoral Care at Hillcrest Hospital.
- St. Gabriel-New Business Manager Linda Hlebak. Fr. David Stavarz is new Parochial Vicar. Susan Kuchenbecker moved to St. Helen to be their bookkeeper. Tomorrow begins their 3rd Alpha series and it has been very fruitful.
- St. John Vianney- Fr. Marty Dober is new Parochial Vicar. Terry Armelli, school principal is fighting cancer and Mrs. Joan Agresta is stepping in part time as acting principal. 50th Anniversary year ends in December and they were able to be in Mentor Parade over the summer.
- St. Justin Martyr- Fr. Kevin is looking for a speaker for Lenten Mission
- St. Mary Chardon-Fr. Stephen Spisak joined staff. Heather Gady is new Catechetical Leader.
- St. Mary-Painesville-Working on training a Raid Response Team in an effort to be ready to respond to a raid. Looking for assistance to help with Confirmation retreat.
- St. Noel- Fr. Terry Grachanin is new Pastor. Looking for a new youth Minister.
- Divine Word- Working on developing 5 year plan for the parish. Gave a 9 week series on prayer over the summer that was well attended. Planning to have half hour adoration and 1 hour class on prayer each week.

- Catholic Charities- Growing Youth Employment Program and program for families affected by incarceration.
- Lake Health- Fr. Greg needs volunteers for making lap blankets for the veterans at the hospital.
- Diocese of Cleveland- Terri Preskar shared “Add Muscle to Your Parish’s Financial Health” Seminar happening on Thursday, September 19 noon-2pm. Program is free.
- Lake Catholic-Charley Fuller is new principal. Have 2 Freshmen as part of “Better Together” program. Need retreat speakers. Have theatre space to share with anyone in the district and able to host Confirmation retreats.
- NDCL-Patrick Basista and Halle McKeon are new Campus Ministers.

District Chair Update-Maureen Dowd

June 18 was the District Chairpersons’ Meeting at the Diocese. Five of thirteen districts were present. Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Marriage and Family Ministry are now part of Parish Life, reporting to Sr. Rita Mary. For right now, CYO will remain under Catholic Charities. The bishop talked briefly of the published list of credibly accused clergy, the letter he wrote to the faithful, the press release, and the need for ongoing healing with the faithful. They are currently interviewing for the new position of Director of Mission and Discipleship, as well as the Secretary for Catechetical Services. Lynette Saenz has been hired as Assistant to Sr. Rita Mary.

The bishop asked the chairs what was working in their district. He discussed the future of the districts and said most aren’t functioning, with the exception of Lake Geauga and Cleveland Central West and Ashland/Medina/Wayne. We may go back to deaneries in 2020 as nothing in Canon Law supports governance in the Church except by deaneries, led by a priest dean.

Maureen Dowd said she gave all of our Lake Geauga District archived materials from its inception, to the diocesan archivist, Phil Haas. She shared that the Pastoral Planning Office would guide both the chairpersons and the district, and since that office was eliminated under Bishop Lennon, some districts have floundered because of a lack of direction. Most feel we desperately need that office back. Other chairs shared that Bishop Pilla began districts in an effort to share and collaborate with both lay leadership as well as clergy. The hope of Bishop Perez is that the new office of Mission and Discipleship will incorporate much of what pastoral planning did. Sr. Rita Mary is forming a committee to look at best practices of districts. Next chairpersons’ meeting is in October.

Young Adult Subcommittee Update-Laura McBride

Subcommittee has met once and group is small but has lots of expertise and enthusiasm. Paul Kelly is on the committee and has experience at the diocesan level with young adult ministry. Fr. Marty Dober has also joined the committee. Two general approaches to engage the young

adults (ages 20-40ish)-1) Parish centered approach and 2) Fully district central approach. Committee is leaning toward parish centered approach but at district level we could help with planning events and branding. Talked about developing a brand and logo to distinguish the Young Adult Ministry and talked about improving communication with the young adults via texting or other means and developing a district-wide database of young adults. Ultimately would like to have young adults lead the group. Fr. Peter Morris issued a challenge to talk to a young adult at mass over the weekend and begin a relationship/conversation with them to see what they want from the church. Looking for more committee members if you would like to join.

Lake Geauga Ministry Discipleship Conference-Fr. Tim Plavac

Conference is on Saturday, October 19, 2019. Registration deadline is October 12, 2019. Fr. Tim's keynote address is "Witness Protection Program." Will share that all people have faith stories to share and it is important that we write down these stories to share with our children, grandchildren and other people in our lives. There are moments in our life when Christ is alive and they don't have to be dramatic moments. We need to "name" our stories and share how God is working in our lives. Shared a Maya Angelou quote, "There is no agony like burying an untold story." There will be six total breakout sessions including coaches this time. Please encourage your parishioners to come.

Resource Book and Counseling Referrals-Fr. Dave

Please update the Resource Book for the 2019-2020 academic year. Sent around a list to add resources for counseling referral. Will post resources on district website.

Announcements

- Luke Brown, NCC, LPC introduced himself to the group. He is a counselor working out of the Painesville office of Catholic Charities. He also works two days a week at Sts. Robert and William per Dr. John Betters offering parish-based counseling to parishioners and others in the area.
- St. John Vianney is holding a Rosary Rally at noon on October 12th.
- Adult Confirmation classes are being held at St. John Vianney in the Fall (beginning Oct 20th) and at St. Gabriel's in the Spring.
- Karen Thrasher, from St. Edward/St. Lucy is having some difficulty with the payroll system and monitoring them to make sure they are filing new hire reports, tax forms correctly. Please be vigilant with your payroll systems.
- Deacon Carl Varga shared that Catholics Coming Home series begins October 1st at Divine Word. This 5 week series welcomes back Catholics who have drifted away from the Catholic Church.

- Fr. Fred Pausche shared that the Divorce and Separated Ministry continues to be helpful in allowing people to feel supported by the church. Allison Capella and Jim Hickey are new on the board. Fr. Fred is looking for additional ways to reach those who need this ministry.
- Fr. Dave Woost shared from his first Presbyterial Council meeting that John Gulick from the diocese reports that the diocesan budget has not changed. Offertory donations have been flat but the parishes that use the offertory enhancement program have seen an increase in offertory donations. He reported that there are currently 20 pastors over 2 parishes but this number will likely increase. There is a need to bring back Parish Life Coordinators. Expecting a change with the district model of Diocesan Governance. There is currently a study group including a Canon Lawyer studying this issue. The Clergy Personnel Office received a grant from the Lilley Foundation to evaluation priests' lifestyle/ministry. Council voted to look at implementing this in diocese. It is a good program to assess the skills/talents in the diocese and meet the needs of the diocese better. Seminary restoration of the second floor of the seminary is to begin after the school year. How will the parishes be active in raising money for the restoration will be addressed soon. Meeting of all the priests in the diocese will be on Oct. 14, 2019 at Divine Word from 4:45pm-6pm. All priests have received an invitation.

Questions and Answers:

Is there good representation on the council looking at the governance issue?

A: Current committee is made up of Presbyterial Council members. But, how is this different than a deanery model? What does a Dean do versus a Convenor?

Is there more information on the Culture Project?

A: More information will be shared at the Convocation Day with Priests in October. Culture Project members have been to Lake Catholic and will be going to St. Mary Assumption in October for the PSR and day school students.

Next Lake/Geauga District Meeting is Monday, November 11, 2019 11:45 am – St. John Vianney, Mentor