



General Minutes from Lake/Geauga District Meeting

March 13, 2023

St. Mary- Chardon was hosting parish

We had 53 members attend representing 16 parishes.

Fr. Scott Goodfellow from St. Mary, Chardon offered opening prayer prior to the meal.

Fr. Dave Woost welcomed the participants and introduced Mike Barb from Habitat for Humanity as the first presenter.

Mike Barb has been working at Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity in Lake/Geauga County for one year. The Lake and Geauga offices combined in 2014 and have built 96 homes and have repaired 55 homes since their inception. Every day at Habitat for Humanity they start the day by asking the question: "What if everyone in Lake and Geauga County had a safe, healthy, affordable place to call home?" Habitat is one of the top 10 home builders in the US. Roughly 1,000 affiliates in the US: presence in all 50 states and 70 countries.

Three Myths about Habitat for Humanity:

- 1) Jimmy Carter did not start Habitat for Humanity but the organization was created in his home town in GA.
- 2) Habitat for Humanity does not give homes away but the mortgage is a zero interest mortgage and is based on the biblical reference that you don't charge interest to the poor.
- 3) Habitat for Humanity Homes do not bring down the value of neighboring homes, in fact research has shown that they actually raise the property values.

Requirements to qualify for a Habitat for Humanity Home

- 1) Have to present a need (substandard housing, unaffordable housing, renting from an absentee landlord)
- 2) Have to have the ability to pay the mortgage
- 3) Have a willingness to partner with the organization either in sweat equity work on the home or volunteer time in the ReStore.

The ReStore in Newbury recently closed due to economic-driven decision but they are researching new locations in Geauga County. ReStore in Eastlake on Vine Street grosses about \$1.2 million dollars a year and these funds go back to building homes. The ReStore also keeps all of those used materials out of landfills.

The 97TH home is being built in Painesville and the Ground Breaking Ceremony will be on Sunday, April 2nd at 2pm. This event will also serve as the official launch for the fundraising project called "100th Home and Beyond: Be Part of our Story."

Habitat for Humanity also has robust home repair programs including home repair programs for seniors and Veterans.

Impact of Habitat for Humanity on the community : a)Stable homes offer improved educational outcomes for children and improved health for children. b)Habitat for Humanity clients are also encouraged to participate with Civic Engagement and participate with their new communities.

Ways to be involved:

- 1) Volunteer to work on the home construction- don't have to be a skilled laborer
- 2) Advocacy- talk about the issues of substandard housing
- 3) Provide Financial Support- Built on The Foundation Fund (BOTF) referenced in EPH where Christ is the Cornerstone of Faith. Hope that Faith community would undergird the Habitat Homes with a Foundation of Faith by sponsoring an event or a home.

Mike also brought newsletters and t-shirts from Habitat from Humanity. If you would like more brochures or t-shirts just contact Mike Barb at (MBarb@lakegeaugahabitat.org).

Greg Coogan, Secretary for Catechetical Formation for the Diocese of Cleveland, spoke next on the Catechetical Models.

The office has been working on presenting the new Catechetical Models for 3.5 years. Took a look at the needs of families/Parishes for Faith Formation efforts. Looked at expanding or innovating Faith Formation efforts for Children and Young People in the Parish and provide flexibility in these efforts. How can we have an affect on the cognitive, emotional and behavioral growth (head, heart, hands) of the young people and what are our options for passing on the Faith? Look at collaborating with other parishes to provide flexible options to families. New models were published in August 2022.

Shared Data on the # of children in Parish Faith Formation programs over the last few years for our district. **Please see attached slides for information.** Approximately 108 students less this year in Faith Formation in our district as compared to last year. For whole diocese, expecting 1510 children less than last year. In past 10 years, we have lost 1K to 3K children each year in the diocese. The numbers came from the Parish Catechetical Profile which offers the most up-to-date information.

Two primary previous Faith Formation Models were PSR classroom-based programs and Home Study, however, people are different and Faith Formation Offerings should also be different.

Families are changing and only about 7% of households are the traditional family (married parents and one wage earner). Found that Sports are often the one time when Parents and Kids can be together and in community with their friends.

The Religiously unaffiliated have surpassed the number of Catholics in the US. Catholicism reports the greatest net loss in numbers and the "drop your children at the door" PSR model is not working. In 2015, 68% of Catholic Parents do not have their children enrolled in structured Faith Formation or Catholic School and parents are the #1 influencer on the children's faith so we should be joining them together.

Is today's PSR much different the CCD of the 1980's? Classrooms, hallways, one hour a week look the same. Classrooms of today have more technology and collaboration. Maybe we should be having Intergenerational Gatherings.

Are our Faith Formation Offerings Transformational vs. Transactional?

-Family & Parent Engagement

-Young People and Families should be happy to be there.

-Prayerful and Participating in sacraments

Should include celebrating diversity and exploring vocations.

Framework for All Catechetical Models- are a building code. Focusing only on the children and information without incorporating the community is incomplete; we must include the community and demonstrate missionary "zeal."

All Catechetical Models Must include 5 tasks for Catechesis:

- 1) Leading to knowledge of faith (head)
- 2) Initiating into the Celebration of the mystery
- 3) Forming for Life in Christ
- 4) Teaching Prayer-why, depth and variety of prayer
- 5) Introduction to Community Life

Don't limit ourselves to only one approach of Faith Formation and include the new concepts that Catechesis is lifelong and Year-Round. Faith is with us from Birth to Death. The primary need identified in the synodal process both in Cleveland Diocese and in the US was lifelong Faith Formation.

Maybe offer Formation options during the summer and include the whole parish. New to the framework is including connection to the Sunday community. All formation flows from and to the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy. Many children's faith formation occurs outside of Mass.

A few parishes are focusing on this Sunday connection and trying to get the Faith Formation families to feel like they belong. Hosting "Mass Takeovers" where the class and families participate in Mass and shadow the traditional ministers.

What are you doing to connect families to the parish community?

What is the connection to the Sunday Community in your setting?

Three other Hallmarks of the Faith Formation Frameworks that are new to Catechetical Models:

- 1) Diversified Learning Strategies
 - a) Special needs or differently-abled learners
 - b) Unique and varied learning styles-children learn differently and it's not just a preference
 - c) Varying family situations and needs-ask families- "What can I do to help you? What do you need?"
- 2) Family-centered learning- Our faith is a lived faith. Partner with parents and make sure you're communicating with parents through newsletters, family/intergenerational activities, Faith Talk and show respect if families decide to do home schooling.
- 3) Worthwhile service and justice experiences.
 - a) Focused on Faith in Action
 - b) Jesus in others, especially the poor

- c) Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (ie. Habitat for Humanity)
- d) should include a moment of reflection after the service opportunity

- 1) Are your ministries supporting the domestic church?
- 2) What are 2 or 3 actions that we can work toward from these conversations?

Offering a *Baptism Matters: After Baby Comes* class for those who teach baptism class to keep the families engaged in their faith after Baptism. Includes Baptism Preparation, engagement of Parents and Families and a connection to lifelong formation. Will receive complimentary material for evangelizing and formation. Course is at St. Joseph Parish, Strongsville on 03/23/23 from 10am to 1pm.

Fr. Andy Turner from St. Mary Seminary says Heart of a Shepherd Campaign was a success. In May will be ordaining 6 priests. He was announcing Diocesan-wide Eucharistic Revival event. Effort to bring people back to the Eucharist and back to parish life.

Catholic Mass at Classic Auto Group Park (Lake County Captains Stadium) on Sunday, June 11th. Doors open at 4:30pm, Mass at 5pm, and dinner at 6pm. Free to Register but please do so by 05/28/23. Email will also go out with registration information. Purpose is for parishioners to ask those who have not been attending Mass to attend this event with them. Also holding ballpark Masses in Lorain Co., League Park and Ashland Co. Mass in Eastlake will also include Eucharistic Procession from St. Justin Martyr to celebrate Corpus Christi Feast.

Fr. Dave Woost gave an update on Presbyterial Council Meeting.

There has been a proposal to look at Mass scheduling. This has not yet been voted on.

Proposal includes:

- a) each parish can have 1 Saturday Evening Mass
- b) 2 Sunday Masses for parishes with one priest
- c) 1 additional Mass per additional priest with 60% capacity attendance in the church.
- d) change in Mass schedule needs to be made with staff changes at the parish
- e) If 1 priest covers two parishes- the parishes should develop an appropriate Mass schedule with respect to distances between the parishes, capacity of the church, average attendance, and availability of additional assistance, etc.
- f) Senior/Retired priests should prioritize their assistance to the priests that are covering two parishes.
- g) In parishes with one priest, there should be no Mass scheduled for the priest's day off and Mass may be suspended if the priest is on vacation.
- h) There are not to be Eucharistic services if the priest is not there.
- i) Senior/Retired Priests should not over extend themselves or be taken advantage of by the parishes needing assistance.

Next Presbyterial Council meeting at the end of March and there will be further discussion on this topic.

Fr. Dave reports that the Lake/Geauga District is ahead of the other districts with respect to collaborating. As an example, 15/20 parishes in our district are participating in Shared Lenten Communal Penance Services at the end of March. We have also started to publish Mass and Confession times for neighboring parishes in our bulletins. Other recent changes include St. Mary Painesville reducing to one daily Mass. St. Francis and St. Gabriel considering changes to their Mass schedule. Request that parishes work on Mass time changes and communicate those to the district prior to September District Meeting. Please communicate changes to Mary Pat Frey at Divine Word and she will make sure Resource Book is updated and the information is communicated.

Any more thoughts on changing Pod structure? St. Gabriel and St. John Vianney have been communicating with each other re: Mass schedules as they are similarly sized and geographically close parishes.

Teresa Spielberg put together handouts re: distance between parishes that are available to consider when working with Mass schedules.

Discussion on what the plans are at the parish level to educate parishioners on changes based on priest availability.

a) Divine Word has had two small listening sessions with interested parishioners and is planning a Ministry Leadership Meeting in May to discuss with parish leaders.

b) Michelle Baetzholt from St. Noel suggests using a pastor's letter to explain upcoming Shared Communal Penance Services for Lent.

c) St. John Vianney has had over 100 people attend education sessions on the topic and has put information in the bulletin.

d) St. Gabriel has 3 education sessions planned for its parishioners.

e) Suggestion to use consistent message across the district. Data from original presentation on availability of priests is still available on the District website to use for education sessions. Emphasize capacity of Masses and idea of Universal Church.

There is an idea to develop a Lake/Geauga District Eucharistic Revival Summer Institute for Parish Staff that would involve a 6-week program of 1 session/week. Presentations from faculty of St. Mary Seminary about the Eucharist as Source and Summit of our Lives. There is interest to pursue this program so we will look at continuing to develop this program.

Update on New Governance Model for the Diocese being accepted. Will be going to Deaneries. There are currently Zoom meetings happening to cover the details of the model. The Dean of the District will have more canonical responsibilities.

Announcements:

- 1) Jim Hickey from St. John Vianney- Divorced/Separated Ministry in the District has been around for 30 years and offers 3 sessions/yr in addition to a holiday session. Pastor's will be receiving Assessment Letters soon to complete. The Board needs new members and this involves only 2 meetings per year. Please contact Jim to volunteer.

- 2) Jim needs priests for 3 Wednesdays in June 28, July 5 and July 26 to say Mass for the Boy Scouts at noon. Call Jim at St. John Vianney if available.
- 3) Cari Reagan from the Youth Ministry Office at the diocese passed out flyers for a guideline for pastors for hiring an effective youth minister. Please let YM Diocese office know if you hire a YM in your parish so the diocese can offer them support. She also presented flyers for Youth Ministry events coming up including NCYC -National Catholic Youth Conference (in November), Pastor/YM gathering in the Fall, Mass for all Catholic HS @ Public Hall with the Bishop on 11/01, 5 spots on the Youth Advisory Council were offered to Lake/Geauga District.
- 4) Fr. Dave Woost reminds priests that there is Priest Meeting on Monday, May 1st at Divine Word at 4:45pm.
- 5) Position is available for the new Dean/Chairperson of the Lake Geauga District. Gina has been serving for 4 years and is ready to step aside. Please contact Fr. Dave at Divine Word if you would like to volunteer or know someone who would be interested in the role.

Fr. Scott Goodfellow offered closing prayer.

Next Lake/Geauga District Meeting is Monday, May 8, 2023 11:45 am – St. Cyrian Parish