



General Minutes from Lake/Geauga District Meeting

May 8, 2023

St. Cyprian was hosting parish

We had 48 members attend representing 13 parishes. George Kusy from St. Cyprian offered opening prayer prior to the meal.

Gina Rensi welcomed the participants. Thank you for being here and supporting our District. Introduced Fr. Andy Turner to give a brief announcement.

Fr. Turner will be the new Rector at St. Mary Seminary and Borromeo Seminary and is here to promote the Eucharistic Revival for Parishes that will be hosting 3 Ball Park Masses throughout the Summer. Kickoff events intended to bring us together and reconnect with folks who've been disconnected from the church.

June 11th- Classic Park in Eastlake. 3:30PM Eucharistic Procession begins at St. Justin Martyr. Please come and support this effort and take place in the procession. Would like to have a strong presence from Lake/Geauga County District. Mass will begin at 5PM with Bishop Michael Woost presiding. After Mass will be a picnic dinner and free registration is necessary. Registration can be found [here](#) or on Diocese Website under the events tab. There is no baseball game that night and the event will happen rain or shine (Mass will be under the concourse in case of rain). Also, if something is happening in your parish related to the Eucharistic Revival- we can advertise that on the Jumbo Tron at the Eucharistic Revival Event at the Stadium.

July 28th- League Park at 7PM

August 14th- Crusher's Stadium (Avon) at 7PM

Fr. Dave Woost gave update on new Deanery Structure that is being proposed in the Diocese.

Fr. Dave gave update at the Priests' Meeting On Monday, May 1st.

Diocese will be moving to a Deanery Model of governance. Brief history- Diocese was divided into 4 regions in the early 1990s and there was a bishop in each region. Then went to District Model and under Bishop Lennon the clustering process began. Then Bishop Perez (2017) introduced the idea of following a deanery model.

There are currently 13 districts but this will go to 12 Deaneries.

Lake/Geauga Deanery is the largest Deanery with 20 parishes. Still in discussion regarding placement of St. Francis of Assisi in Gates Mills. If St. Francis is not officially in our deanery they can still collaborate with our deanery.

The final draft of the Deanery Structure is due to be delivered to the Bishop at the end of May when plans will be finalized. Next Presbyteral Council meeting is also at the end of May and more information will be coming out. Plan to implement change in the Fall of 2023.

The Dean of the Deanery will have many responsibilities with the emphasis being on the care and well being of the priests. Dean to have personal relationship with all the priests. Also tasked with making sure the Bishop's initiatives are being carried out, coordinates pastoral activities with resources and personnel throughout the meeting.

Expected to hold Deanery meetings (with both priests and deacons) at least 3 times per year. Have gatherings of the Deanery Pastoral Leaders (ie District meetings) at least 3 X/year in collaboration with Deanery Chair.

The authority of the Dean is pastoral and not executive in the strict sense. Qualifications to become a dean include being a priest for at least 8 years, served in the deanery at least 1 year to name a few.

Duties will include:

- 1) Serving on the Bishop's Episcopal Council -4x/yr
- 2) Pastoral Care of Clergy
- 3) Regular and ongoing Contact with Clergy

Dean duty is for pastoral support and not inspection. Dean is elected for 6 year term. Expected to visit each parish at least once every 3 years and use a Visit Instrument to assess sacramental registries, registry of Mass intentions, assess parish property, record income and expenditures, record parish activities and many other items. Parish Visitation would take one entire day.

Dean will also be available for conflict resolution with Vicar of Clergy and assist with funeral arrangements for deanery clergy, consult on Pastor appointments, help with Deanery Chair selection.

Dean will be appointed by the Bishop if no volunteers come forward. Fr. Dave thinks there are at least 15-20 meetings per year.

Deanery Chair will also be chosen. This is like the District Chairperson. Must have been part of the deanery for at least one year. The Bishop will accept resumes for this position and a committee will decide via ballots who to recommend and the Bishop will make the final selection.

Deanery Chair is expected to have at least 3 Deanery Meetings per year and attend the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) meeting every other month at the Diocese Office.

Fr. Dave expects that he will be asked to volunteer names for the Dean position and expects that this model may be in place by Fall 2023. He also mentions that several Zoom meetings have already been held to present this information.

Other Dioceses in Ohio are set up this way and it is being proposed because other Districts are floundering. We have a vibrant district and will probably make this transition more easily than other districts.

Fr. Tom Sweany offered thanks to Maureen Dowd for sending a letter to the Bishop letting them know how important this model is to sustain the health of the parishes.

Fr. Dave offered that the model will morph into what it needs to be. Idea is to get the Catholic institutions in the deanery more connected with the parishes.

Group agreed to go ahead and plan a September 2023 meeting, even if the Deanery model is not yet up and running. Would like to keep the momentum of the district going as we transition to the new model.

Deacon Phillip Kraynick asked if the Deans will also be responsible for the well-being of the retirees in the District. Yes, along with the Delegate for the Senior Clergy, Deans will also be responsible for these folks.

Information will continue to come out on the website as we finalize plans to move toward a deanery model.

Recap of Communal Penance Services for Lent 2023

Fr. Dave reports that about 200 folks came to the service that combined St. Anselm, Divine Word, St. Francis and St. Noel. More folks were from the hosting parish of St. Francis. May rotate which church hosts but Fr. Tom Sweany advises that the most centrally located parish might be best. Might have had fewer numbers because this was the first year. Did not hear any resistance from parishioners.

Fr. Fred reports that he combined services of St. Mary, Chardon/St. Patrick/St. Anthony/St. Gabriel also had a similar turn out with the hosting parish having the most attendees. People may get more used to going to a different parish.

Priests appreciated the ease of scheduling other priests to be available for confession and decreasing the burden of finding help. Will look to automate the system for scheduling these Combined Communal Penance Services for Advent 2023 and beyond. Hope to have that done by September 2023.

Discussion ensued on if parishes were considering any changes in their Mass schedules. Divine Word has neighboring Mass schedules and Confession times listed in their bulletin. St. Gabriel is continuing to have listening sessions to gauge a switch to their Mass schedule. They will also continue to consult with St. John Vianney and may make a decision soon.

Gina Rensi next presented on the Eucharistic Revival.

Year of Parish Eucharistic Revival begins in June 2023 and goes through July 2024.

The Diocese website has many resources available including links to the National website for ideas. Gina also passed out Playbook for National Eucharistic Revival.

On the national website they propose 4 pillars to focus on:

- 1) Personal Encounters: Bring your people to Jesus
- 2) Reinvigorating Devotion: Receive Jesus. Worship Jesus
- 3) Deeping Formation: Learn and preach the truth about Jesus
- 4) Missionary Sending: Go out and bring Jesus to the world.

Fr. Andre Cozzens offers that this Revival is intended to be far more than a series of events or programs. It aims to be a movement that enkindles a living relationship with Jesus. How do we live out our Baptismal call?

The following questions were discussed the tables:

- 1) What are some initiatives you're currently doing or are planning to celebrate the Eucharistic Revival?
- 2) By looking at the four pillars, what other things can you suggest/organize for the upcoming year?
- 3) Which of these ideas can we possibly collaborate within pods or at the District level?

Answers shared:

- 1) St. Helen has a Eucharistic Adoration Chapel that they are wanting to renew this to a Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Will be having monthly Adoration in the Church.
- 2) The Blessed Carlo Exhibit is still happening in the Diocese and exhibit was well attended at St. Helen. Information can still be found on Diocesan website-look for "Eucharistic Miracles Display."
- 3) St. Justin Martyr had a Parish Mission on the Mass and will have a Parish Mission on the Eucharist. Teaching on the Eucharist for Confirmation class and parents.
- 4) IC Willoughby is having a session on "Science Tests Faith" Session on May 15th and May 16th
- 5) Divine Word has had success with small group book clubs in the past and may host one that focuses on Evangelization/Sending Forth.
- 6) Ideas-Host Exalts for families with children in the afternoon through the diocese; Host couples adoration nights on Saturday nights will include appetizers and wine.
- 7) There is going to be a July Speakers Series at Divine Word- Monday Evenings in July (10, 17, 24, 31) from 6:30p to 9:00p. Dinner will be included and RSVP a must. Cost is \$10/person. Attend any or all of the four sessions. Speakers are faculty from St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology. Talks focused on the Eucharist and Divinization.
- 8) IC Willoughby sent out holiday event cards to entire city of Willoughby instead of just the parishioners.
- 9) St. Helen has a booth at Geauga County Fair- try to reach out to those who are not attending Mass and receiving Eucharist.
- 10) Deacon Phillip Kraynack suggests having regulars invite a guest to Mass, publish Adoration times for other parishes.
- 11) On 05/18/23, St. Patricks will be having a rosary and Adoration for the unborn; starting outdoor Masses for the Summer. He suggested Home Renewal Program Booklets (7 sessions) from the USCCB that are coming out in June. St. Patricks will also be adding adult education sessions. The two deacons are going to offer ideas on Spiritual Life Committees. Deacon Kraynick also suggests appointing a lead person to promote the ideas in your parish. He also appreciates that at our meetings we provide questions, time to discuss and feedback that contributes to actions.
- 12) St. Gabriel is looking at coordinating Eucharistic Adoration with other parishes so they don't overlap and then to invite their parishioners to the other churches. Suggest offering Adoration between Masses.
- 13) St. Bede and St. Cyprian will be having a Corpus Christi Procession. They offered a retreat at St. Bede on Eucharist and they recommend Christy C.- Director of Missionary Discipleship for the Cleveland Diocese. St Bede has reinstated bells during the consecration and have put prayer cards in the Pews for before communion prayer.
- 14) Fr. Terry from St. Noel offers that they had a successful 9 Nights of Night Prayer Program and the process seemed to speak to people's hearts and souls. They introduced Tenebrae and Taize

Prayer during Lent. May offer Adoration in the context of Evening Prayer and invite speakers to the Parish. Want to focus on Missionary Sunday and emphasize the link between baptism and eucharist. Suggest using various approaches to reach different people.

- 15) We will work on a way to communicate with each other what programs or ideas are working in your parishes and what ideas are not working.

Announcements:

- 1) Rhonda Abrams from Catholic Cemetery Association reminds us they offer free Grief Support groups on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 3pm. They also have virtual support groups at 5pm if folks are not able to make it to the cemetery offices. Memorial Day Mass is on Monday, May 29th at either 9am or 10am depending upon the location.
- 2) Terry Yohman from Diocese states they are still looking for barns in Lake or Geauga County to paint the revival logo on the side of. Contact Mary Boneno (mboneno@dioceseofcleveland.org) for more information.
- 3) Eucharistic Congress Indianapolis 2024- Make plans now for event in July 2024. Taking smaller groups is more cost effective than taking a larger group. The Diocese has 12 tickets per district to share. May work great as a family vacation- grandparenting pilgrimage?
- 4) Deacon Tim Shell- St. Justin Martyr will be having Corpus Christi Procession on June 11th to the Captains Stadium at 3:30pm. Encourages us all to participate. Will be saying Rosary during the procession.
- 5) Linda Hlebak invited all the Business Office Managers to a meeting on May 24th at 4pm at St. Mary, Chardon. They enjoy having new Business Office Managers and also seasoned managers to share their wisdom.
- 6) PC for People is collecting used computers to bridge the digital divide in Lake County. A flyer was handed out to participate in this initiative. They recycle and revive PCs to share with the less fortunate.
- 7) Fr. George Kusy from St. Cyprian announces they will be having a International Food Festival on June 4th which begins with Mass at 11am and then will provide food from 7 countries.

Deacon Andrew Novak offered closing prayer for the meeting.

Next District/Deanery meeting will be in September 2023, location to be determined.