



## General Minutes from Lake/Geauga District Meeting

September 11, 2023

St. Noel was hosting parish

We had 45 members attend our first meeting this year. Fr. Terry Grachanin from St. Noel offered opening prayer prior to the meal.

Gina Rensi welcomed the participants. She has served as District Chairperson for the last 6 years and will be stepping away from the position. During this transition year until the new Governance Model is implemented, the district will be run by the Agenda Committee. She thanks everyone for her time served and has enjoyed it.

Spent time introducing all of Agenda Committee members and then each participant introduced him or herself and explained his/her roll at each parish.

Mary von Carlowitz next presented on her role as Director for Office of Human Life for the Diocese of Cleveland. She states she is in this role because she sees the face of Christ in all people. The Right to Life movement is about walking with all people and affirming the dignity of all people. There was a priest's meeting in June Re: the Amendment issue on the November ballot. Mary works as Diocesan spokesperson for the Right to Life issues. She reviewed the work of the diocese to provide education for the people on this issue. Mary works with Catholic Conference of Ohio and "Protect Women Ohio," which is a conglomeration of agencies working with the diocese to get the word out about the Amendment issue on the November ballot. She handed out folders with loads of information for Protect Them Both campaign including time-line for publications to be distributed. The publications are designed to come out intermittently until November.

She focused on Catholic Church's position that we respect **all** life from conception until natural death. And we are prepared to walk with all women in need.

All resources she shared can be found at the website: [Protect Them Both | Catholic Diocese of Cleveland | Cleveland, OH](#). This website also includes a video message from Bishop Malesic regarding abortion issue that can be shared.

Also encouraged us to view and use the tab "Where Does It Say That" in order to understand the language behind the November ballot issue.

"Walking with Moms in Need" resources also available at this website.

October is Respect Life Month and there are resources available on the website including bulletin blurbs and social media posts to broadcast this. Many resources are available in English and Spanish

The website also includes information for how to assist with Voter Registration and training sessions will be available for how to talk with others about the November issue.

One-hundred yard signs/parish will be delivered to parishes for Vote No on November Ballot Issue. There are also prayer cards and magnets available for Protect Them Both campaign.

Ohio is the only state this election season facing this issue, but next year 8 states will be facing this amendment. Therefore, Pro-choice side has focus only on Ohio at this time.

Please reach out to Mary if you need any assistance with getting more information to distribute or need any other help with this campaign.

Deacon Bob Grgic and Christy Cabaniss (Director of Missionary Discipleship from Diocese of Cleveland) presented on the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024. Congress is in Indianapolis July 17<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>.

Cleveland Diocese has purchased 250 tickets. The tickets will be given to a contingency of folks with the goal for the diocese to create Eucharistic Missionaries to carry through the third year of the Eucharistic Revival. The diocese is planning on inviting 12 people from each of the 12 districts as Diocese Contingency. During the Priests' Convocation in October more information will be forthcoming. During the November District Meeting, we will have more information available as well. There will also be a contingency of 150 Youth going to the Congress from Cleveland Diocese.

Deacon Bob Grgic is organizing parish groups from our District and is hoping to provide a life changing encounter with Catholic Church at large. He reports that he needs 30 people to pay for the bus. Cost is about \$2,000/person. Please contact him at St. Gabriel for more information at [bgrgic@st-gabriel.org](mailto:bgrgic@st-gabriel.org).

Mary Pat Frey from Divine Word

Reviewed success of Eucharistic Revival Conference held on the four Monday evenings in July, 2023. This program was very well attended and grew from 60 attendees per night to 120 by the last evening. Plan to continue this program with Seminary Speakers next July with possible topic being "Spirituality and the Connection with our Faith." Will probably look for a larger venue to host this event.

The district-wide Reconciliation Project is coming along. Mary Pat has sent out the link to the Spreadsheet so that priests can check their schedules and sign up for available times to assist with confession around the district. If you are having difficulty accessing the drive she can assist ([mpfrey@divinewordkirtland.org](mailto:mpfrey@divinewordkirtland.org)). This project is an effort to streamline our communications and reduce the number of calls to individual priests to assist with Confession events. We will post the spreadsheet on the Lake/Geauga Website as well.

### **Announcements:**

- 1) Fr. Fred Pausche- The Divorced/Separated Ministry is still well supported and needed. It has been running for 27 years and is the first and oldest ministry in Lake/Geauga District. Allison Capella from St. Gabriel is the new Director of this ministry. They offer an 8-week support group throughout the year. Next group is at St. Mary, Chardon and this winter will be offering a group on Zoom. After the new year, groups will be offered at St. Noel and St. Gabriel. Group hires professional counselors and they will be revamping/updating the material for 2024.
  - a. First Step Program will be offered at St. Gabriel on TH, Sept 14<sup>th</sup> to share information about annulments.
  - b. October 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Gabriel will be an evening of Hope and Healing offered by Fr. Tim Plavac for those experiencing separation/divorce.

- c. The Divorce/Separated Ministry Board can always use new members. Two meetings for this board per year.
- 2) Michelle Nowak, Director of Lay Ecclesial Ministry had the following announcements:
    - a. Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, Paul Jarzembowski will be presenting at the CPL regarding "Find Some Hope this Fall." Paul is from the USCCB. All Pastors, Staff, Youth/Young Adult Ministers are welcome to attend. Presentation will be from 10am until 2:30pm and lunch will be served (\$10). Has done research on how to capture the folks who only attend Mass at Lent.
    - b. Lay Ecclesial Ministers and other ministers are welcome to hear Dan Saluchy from the Catholic Leadership Institute prior to Priests Convocation in October sharing large scale research on Mass attendance.
  - 3) Beth Rosetti from St. Justin Martyr shared information from the Red Bird Ministry which walks with families who have experienced the loss of a child either through miscarriage into adulthood. Will be having a workshop for ministers on Friday, Sept 22 from 10am until 1:00pm at St. Justin Martyr and the founders of Red Bird Ministry will be there. Currently there are two "flock leaders" in the Diocese- Beth Rosetti and Theresa Yohman. On Saturday, Sept 23 there will be a Bereavement Retreat for parents that have experienced a loss. Event to take place at St. Bridget Kildare Parish in Parma.
  - 4) Samantha Coffman from St. Gabriel Campus Ministry.
    - a. Eucharistic Revival Rally and Mass for all High School Students in the Diocese will take place on All Saints Day, November 1<sup>st</sup> at The Public Convocation Center. All Catholic HS are invited to bring their entire student body. All Catholic HS students in the diocese are invited. Please contact Samantha to coordinate transportation to this event. Event from 9:30am until 12:30p.
    - b. Thursday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup> St. Gabriel is hosting a Navigating High School Admission night from 6-8pm. Night is designed for Parents of 8<sup>th</sup> Graders to learn about all of the area Catholic High Schools and their admission processes, EdChoice Scholarships, etc.
  - 5) Bob DeJohn-Catholic Cemeteries Association- shared information about the Annual Walk to Remember that will be held on Oct 01, 2023. Flyers available with more information.
  - 6) Fr. Greg Schaut- Lake Health Hospital announcements- Lake West will become primarily a Cardiovascular hospital and Tripoint will have a Birthing Unit (Level 2). UH system will be transitioning to EPIC software this month.
  - 7) Fr. Terry Grachanin- St. Noel. Announces that they will begin a Concert series with their first concert on Sunday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. Local to Global music; Bach to Big Band.
  - 8) Fr. Tim Plavac- St. Bedes- Will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and will have a Big Band Concert on 09/17/23. Also invited the district to a Requiem Mass on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Gina thanked everyone for opportunity to Chair the district.

Next District meeting will be on November 13, 2023 at St. Mary-Chardon.