



General Minutes from Lake/Geauga District Meeting

March 11, 2024

St. Cyprian Parish

Prayer/Lunch/Welcome from Debbie Kascala and Fr. George Kusy gave the opening prayer. We had 33 members participate.

Michele Baetzold welcomed everyone and introduced Mary Pat Frey to give Presbyteral Council update on behalf of Fr. Dave Woost. The technology for Virtus is being updated. Information will be coming out soon and no difficulties are expected. The Parish Assessment Formula is being looked at for the first time in 30 years. A video presentation is being requested to illustrate the changes that are proposed. The new process is not to be expected for at least one year. No timeline has been finalized at this time.

Priest Confession needs are on the website: St. Francis and St. Mary Magdelene need assistance this week as does Divine Word. St. Bede will need 5 more priests for their service on March 20th. Come over to Rachel Scott at the end of the meeting to sign up.

The new governance model will be rolling out soon. Position of Dean is appointed by the Bishop. The Dean Chairperson will be elected by the deanery. Please let the Agenda committee know if you are interested in being considered for this position. New chairperson position is a ways out (several months).

Michele Baetzold gave District Chairperson update for Gina Rensi. From Robert Koonce, the timeline for the Deanery model has not yet been finalized. Announce new procedure this spring, hope to install new deanery by the summer. Roll out of the new structure will take several years. Minimally plan to continue to meet as districts through the end of 2024, changes expected to be implemented for the deanery model into early 2025. We are looking for someone to take over the Chairperson responsibilities through the end of 2024. Please let district agenda committee members know.

Mary Pat Frey presented the Summer Conference Series to take place in June/July 2024. This year's conference series will focus on Catholic Spirituality.

- Monday, June 24th Fr. Ed Estok will give an introduction to Catholic Spirituality
- Monday, July 1st Sr. Lisa Marie Beltz will speak on Biblical Spirituality
- Monday, July 8th Fr. Scott Detisch will speak on Liturgical Spirituality
- Monday, July 15th Bishop Woost will speak on the Spirituality of the Saints

Events will be held at St. Noel in Willoughby Hills and a free will offering will be collected to cover the meal. Look for a flyer coming out soon with the details. Open to staff and parishioners throughout the district.

Deacon Bob Grgich and Paula Haumesser from St. Gabriel next presented on their approach to Ministering to Young Families. They have a Check-in with all the First Communion families individually for about 20 minutes. These conferences are with a priest or deacon. They discuss what sacraments the family may be missing and any other needs the family might have that could be addressed by the parish.

Ideas that have used for Family Ministry in the past:

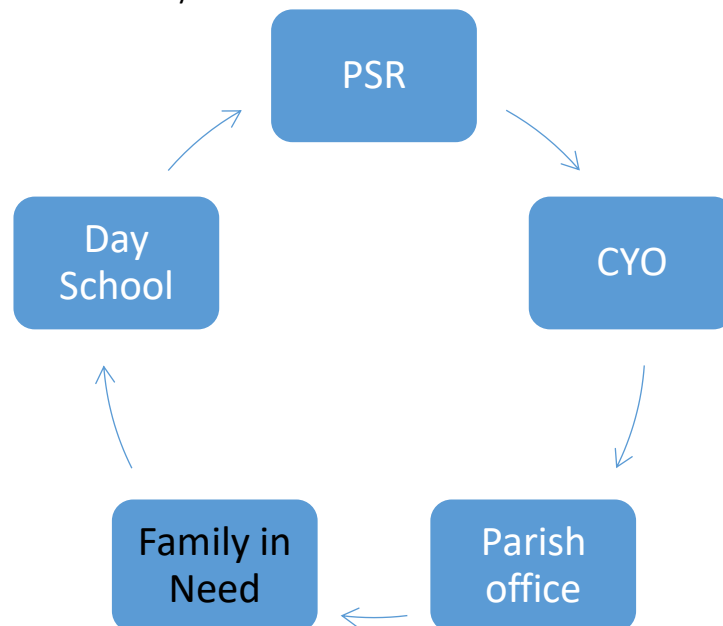
- PJ Party for mothers and daughters that include doing nails, dinner, socializing.
- Outdoor Games under the pavilion
- Donut Sunday - offer a craft kit for the families to take home

A young mother has volunteered to orchestrate these young family gatherings. She would like to invite the entire district to some of these events at least 4 times a year. For example, a skating party.

- Hosted a CYO coach's night out at Red, Wine, and Brew- to get their perspective and to connect the CYO community with the parish. Gave coaches a book entitled "All In" which focuses on the spirituality of coaching and was written by coaches for coaches.
- Hosted a Potluck to welcome new priest Fr. Josh Tenfrey. Was well attended and a good experience.

They have begun a systematic and organized approach to reacting to immediate needs in the parish. By building bridges over the last few years, the structure has come into place quickly.

They have included a "Prayer Button" on their website. Paula will take the message into the parish of someone who needs prayers or assistance. She addressed their needs including whether to make their issue public or just keep it private. Deacon Bob then does a follow-up call to address further needs. They recently had a family facing a cancer diagnosis with a young mother and they were able to coordinate with the CYO community to provide prayer services and support for the family. Since instituting this more structured response to needs in their community they have seen an increase in the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and prayer services. Please see attached document to see an example of the intake form that they use.



They also assign a "Guardian Angel" to the family in need to stay in contact with the family. Currently just using staff members for this role.

St. Gabriel's uses a Google Doc/Spreadsheet in order to organize the information and keep the file current ([Pray For Us \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)). The documents keep notes on the situation and makes sure everyone is "in the loop." Deacon Bob contacts the family for more information and to tell them what services the parish can offer from spiritual services to St. Vincent DePaul to food pantry. They consider the confidentiality of the request from very confidential vs. Somewhat confidential vs not concerned with confidentiality (everyone already knows it's on FaceBook).

Next the whole group separated into smaller groups to discuss what they are doing at their parishes to address Family Ministry needs. A summary of these findings will be shared with the district.

Fr. Josh Tenfrey from St. Gabriel offered to help any parish with the technical side of managing the Google Doc/Spreadsheet for this organized approach to a family's needs.

Paula Haumesser is happy to share her resources (phaumesser@st-gabriel.org). The first meeting to launch this Prayer Button Resource was with the family ministry leaders to discuss how to connect the different entities (preschool, CYO, YFF, day school, etc.) with the parish. Parish doesn't want to take away from what is working with all of these groups (prayer chain, sunshine committee) they just want to connect the parishes to what is already happening. St. Gabriel's has been working on this ministry for about 5 years. The process has been slow and the team members have been fluid as they are mostly young parents. They have found that the grandparents have been helpful as they have more time to devote to this ministry.

Deacon Bob opened up the floor for parishes to share what they have been doing. Mary Pat Frey shared that Divine Word has recently had a young mother start a book study/play date in her home for other young mothers to attend. Divine Word will start this week a men's basketball pick-up game night at the middle school for socialization.

To reach the young families St. Gabriel's has a First Eucharist Retreat for the Second Grade Families and they held listening sessions to gather information about what these families need. They asked the young families: "How can we help you and what do you need?"

Debbie Kacsala at St. Cyprian hosted a painting activity for Lent. Had 24 people attend. Retired art teacher taught how to paint the crucifix, sunset and then sent families home with the last seven words of Christ.

Trying to focus on how to connect in with the communities that already exist within their parish (CYO, day school, etc.). Deacon Bob will collect the information that the other parishes shared at their tables and share that information with the district within the week.

Announcements:

- 1) Jason Lewis from the Diocese of Cleveland Social Action Office
 - a. The 1st Peace and Justice Dinner since the pandemic will happen soon. All parishes were sent information this month and invitations. Thank you to all of the parishes that have already responded. Jason has more paper invitations and he can send them out electronically.
 - b. June 9th-June 15th there will be an immersion experience called Pilgrimage for Justice. This bus trip from Cleveland to Cincinnati to Alabama will visit important landmarks in

the Civil Rights Movement. Cost is \$995 but there are We Give Catholic Scholarship funds and Tabor Grant Funds available. They are trying to fill the whole bus. Look also on the Catholic Charities website for more information.

- c. Catholic Campaign for Human Development has money available to give parishes through CCHD grants. The social justice programs in your parishes would qualify. The local grants are not difficult to apply for. Please contact Jason for more information. Money that is collected in second collection every November goes to national office and then 33% comes back to the local diocese for social justice programs. Call Jason to apply for these grants.
- 2) Michelle Nowak from the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Office introduced 2 Saturday workshops happening at the CPL. These workshops are free of charge. Christy Cabaniss will present on the Ministry of Accompaniment on March 23rd. Fr. John Paul Kuzma will present on the ministry of spiritual direction on April 27th. This summer there will be a Canon Law class offered at St. Mary Seminary.
- 3) Steve Biro from St. Anthony Fairport Harbor offered that a Grief Support Group will be starting in April on Tuesdays from April 16-May 21st. A Lay Ecclesial Ministry candidate will be running this session. He will send a flyer along soon to share.

Closing Prayer offered by Deacon Andy Novak

Next Lake/Geauga District Meeting is Monday, May 13th, 2024 11:45 am – St. John Vianney