

FAMILY of PARISHES TRANSITION TEAM MINUTES

April 20, 2021

7:30pm

Zoom Conference Video

Meeting called by: Chris Doyle

Facilitator: Chris Doyle

Note taker: Annie Ferrera

Attendees:

Fr. Brian Jane, Fr. José Montepeque, Fr. Anthony Eboh, Deacon David Cummings, Leanne Moran, Leonia Downie, Chris Doyle, Annie Ferrera, Bill Nelson, Jay Stewart, Katherine Stoesser, Armando Notte, Regina Croskery, Sylvie Chmielewski, Scott Kellett, Amanda Cimetta. Andrew Jones, Roman Norejko, Stella Burns

Regrets: Fr. Jan Burczyk, Mark Roehler,

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Chris Doyle

2. Welcome & Overview of Meeting: Chris Doyle

- a. Start focussing on the achievements of the Transition Team.
- b. Continue building on each other's strengths, gifts and experiences – celebrate our diversity.
- c. Focus on Transition Team accomplishments and successes.
- d. Where to next?

3. Opening Prayer: Amanda Cimetta led the team in prayer, scripture (Luke 24: 35-48). Followed by reflection and the Prayer of Unity.

4. Small Group Discussion:

The team broke into small groups to discuss the following theme: Today is our fifth meeting and we are getting a glimpse of July 01, 2021 however we still have a lot of territory to cover.

Today in our small group discussion we are going to talk about what you would consider success of the transition team and what do we need to do to further add to this success.

- *As we look towards July 01, 2021 what would you see as our marks or indicators of success of this team?*
- *What type of celebrations would you like to see in our parishes to mark the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes?*

Group 1:

Indicators of success:

- Relationships that have been developed
- Positive energy, connection, cooperation, enthusiasm
- Commitment of members to attend meetings regularly
- Choosing a name that works for everyone and reflects who we are
- Greater understanding of the dynamics of parishes
- Great number of volunteers who came together to develop a plan for the youth
- Unselfish ways of looking at how we present ourselves
- Covid presenting a disconnect, team looking for ways to reach out to community to spread the word, answer questions, gather feedback

Celebration:

- Large gathering, possibly an arena, the park to celebrate Mass together

- Christian music event in park, tents, food, music
- Time Capsule filled with something from each parish
- Banners in every church, memento for everyone such as a book mark, a prayer card

Group 2:

Indicators of success:

- “Holy Spirit’s” movement among us; we come from many diverse parishes with a spirit of collaboration and cooperation
- Positive efforts to move forward that which we have discussed as a Team to our parishioners despite the drawbacks of a pandemic, e.g., newspaper, phonline, website etc.

Celebration

- Reality of covid still being among us and navigating those obstacles
- The Deanery celebration of the mass at Our lady of Mercy for the feast of The Immaculate Conception, (prior to covid), is a beautiful model for the coming together of parishes in Sarnia. Might such a celebration be possible for our coming together as a family of parishes?
- An outdoor Mass at Centennial or Canatara Park and a festival, perhaps similar to St. Rocco Festival, with a venue that created a family atmosphere, (keeping in mind the various age groups and providing age-appropriate activities), in a welcoming atmosphere of 'belonging'

Group 3:

Indicators of success:

- Need to move past ideas and implement plans
- Lots of energy for youth ministry
- Website and communication in place and getting ready for July 1st

Celebration

- Lockdown/Covid will hamper plans
- Possibly have parishioners visit each other’s parishes
- Large festival gathering; Canada Day is a good time to bring people together

Group 4:

Indicators of success:

- New name chosen
- Logo being developed
- Finance committee coming together
- Like minded, sharing our Faith
- We are addressing a lot of concerns
- Trust and sharing

Celebration

- Large kick off, possibly Canatara Park
- Banners in all churches announcing the Family of Parishes
- Live stream
- Time capsule
- Recordings, videos for sharing

5. Youth Advisory Team: Bill Nelson

Bill presented a detailed report of ideas and proposals developed by a team of 26 volunteers representing all 7 parishes.

Next Steps:

- Continue to pray for the development of a youth ministry within the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes.

- Presentation of Proposals to FOP Transition Team
- Further explore the idea of Charisms of the Holy Spirit workshops with Youth Ministry Advisory Team.
- Present the proposal of hiring a Youth Ministry Coordinator and establishing a Youth Advisory Council or Commission.
- Proposals and ideas of Youth Ministry Advisory Team presented to the FOP Transition team will be presented to the Pastoral Leadership team and FOP Finance Council as Recommendations.
- FOP Pastoral Leadership team and finance council will review recommendations of the FOP Transition team regarding the future of youth ministry and set a budget if approved.
- FOP Pastoral Leadership team will communicate with Transition team, and Youth Ministry Advisory Team as to next steps.
- If accepted, FOP Pastoral team will prepare a realistic and accurate ministry description for a parish Youth Minister or Coordinator which would include the vision and ideas proposed by the Youth Ministry Advisory Team.
- Create a Youth Ministry Advisory Council or Commission to work with a Youth Minister.
- Youth Minister and Youth Ministry Advisory Council invite to a Zoom meeting, someone from another parish that has an active and strong parish youth ministry. Get a sense of what seems to be working well and what of those successes could be transferred to our FOP Youth Ministry.
- Youth Minister and Youth Ministry Advisory Council decide on a structure for the youth ministry and seek and establish leaders and assistants perhaps partially based on Charisms of the Holy Spirit.
- Youth Minister and Youth Ministry Advisory Council decide on programs and resources to be used for each age and stage of the youth ministry.
- Youth Minister and Youth ministry Advisory Council provide detailed role sheets so that everyone on the youth ministry team know the roles being expected of them and approximately how much time is being asked of them in this capacity.

Charisms of the Holy Spirit: Leanne talked about the Charisms of the Holy Spirit.

Charisms, spiritual gifts, are special abilities, a special empowerment, given to a Christian by the Holy Spirit to enable them to be powerful channels of God's love and redeeming presence in the World. Whether extraordinary or ordinary, charisms are to be used in charity or service to build up the Church (CCC, 2003)

There is a formation program offered through the Catherine of Sienna Institute to help discern Charisms. More information will be available as we develop youth ministry.

6. Items to Communicate: Annie Ferrera/Chris Doyle

- a. Name: Now that we have a name for our Family of Parishes, we need to make sure it is used on all documentation, advertising, announcements pertaining to the Family.
- b. Logo: The logo team has come up with a design that represents who we are.
The design includes: water – Sarnia Bluewater; the sun with 7 rays – the 7 parishes in the family; a cross – our Catholic Faith; a dove – the Holy Spirit guiding us on our journey. The preliminary design is now in the hands of Scott Palko who has agreed to develop it as a logo through his company CCI Studio, a graphic design company in Sarnia.
- c. Website: Annie is still looking for volunteers to manage each parish's information on the Family website. Tech skills are not needed for this work as the site is very user friendly. Ideally, there should be 2 people from each parish to help with this. Please email Annie for more information.
- d. Hotline: has been set up. We have advertised the number in the bulletins. No questions yet.
- e. Advertising: a small ad appeared in this past week's Sarnia Journal. It gave some information as to what is happening and the hotline number. We were not charged for this first ad. Leanne wrote an advertorial for the April 29th issue. It is a 1/3-page interview with Father Brian. It will give more detail on the Family. We will follow up with another small ad towards the end of May and another one in June, hopefully to announce the new Mass schedules.
- f. Finance Committee: Two more parishioners have joined the Finance committee, Mark Roehler from Queen of Peace and Maurice Coulombe from St. Thomas d'Aquin. We are still looking for 1 or 2 more people from St. Michael's parish. A couple of names were suggested; Chris will follow up with Leanne.

7. Pastoral Plan: Fr. Brian/Leonia Downie

Leonia reported that she, Leanne and Roman had met to review the pastoral plans that are already in place at St. Michael/Sacred Heart cluster, Our Lady of Mercy/St. Joseph/St. Benedict cluster and St. Thomas d'Aquin. Using the 6 Pastoral Plan goals developed by the Diocese of London, the team put some suggestions together to be discussed by the Pastoral team. Roman said that Queen of Peace does have a plan and that he would send it to Leanne and Leonia for review and addition to the plan being reviewed.

The final draft will be presented to the Transition Team for discussion.

8. Action Items:

- Recruit volunteers to manage individual parish website pages.
- Pastoral Plan: Leanne, Lee, Armando – present a preliminary outline by next meeting.

9. Prayer Petitions, closing prayer, blessing:

10. Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 7:30 PM on Zoom