

FAMILY of PARISHES TRANSITION TEAM MINUTES

March 9, 2021

7:00pm

Zoom Conference Video

Meeting called by: Chris Doyle

Facilitator: Chris Doyle

Note taker: Annie Ferrara

Attendees:

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

Regrets: Steve DeGurse, Fr. Anthony Eboh

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chris Doyle:
2. **Opening Prayer & Welcome:** Leanne Moran led the team in prayer, scripture (1 Corinthians 12) and reflection
3. **Overview of today's meeting & review of previous meeting:** Chris Doyle
 - a. Recap of the Diocesan vision for Family of Parishes; we are mission oriented; stay focused as we transition, maintaining the vision and mission.
 - b. Transition team names, email addresses & phone # will be included in parish bulletins so people can contact us with questions, concerns, ideas etc. Annie will send out a current list of contact information. Please let Chris or Annie know if corrections need to be made or if you do not wish your contact info listed.
 - c. Start time is 7:30pm for transition team meetings to allow for Masses on Tuesday evenings. Please let Annie know if you are not able to attend a meeting.
4. **Small Group Discussion:**

In our last small group discussion about what a vibrant parish looks like we discovered recurring themes such as welcoming, inviting, hospitable, sense of belonging, communication, listening, ministering, Eucharist, passionate about our faith.

The small group discussion tonight centred around the question: *What specific things are happening enabling your parish to be a vibrant parish? What are those things that can be added or improved upon?*

Group 1:

 - Covid prevented a lot from happening.
 - St. Vincent de Paul food drives, parishioner driven food drives getting people involved.
 - Social after Mass are very popular, lead to fellowship and encourage people to get involved
 - Small church groups.
 - More community outreach and fellowship opportunities are needed for families; families bring kids
 - Challenge will be how to bring people back to church after Covid.

Group 2:

 - Traditions/celebrations bring people together; people want to preserve their traditions.
 - Masses in many languages attract many parishioners especially the older generation and young families looking to pass down their heritage to their children.
 - Lots of collaboration and outreach in parishes.
 - Welcoming meals always bring people together, fellowship, create a sense of belonging.
 - Use of technology, especially during Covid, keeps people connected (livestream Mass, Mass on TV for those who don't have computer access, Zoom small church communities, Alpha on Zoom, livestream in schools).
 - Offering more religious activities such as Novenas, Stations of the Cross.

- More effort needed in bringing families together.

Group 3:

- Parish has a strong affiliation with its parishioners, families, children.
- Lots of diversity in what is being offered.
- Active groups like Ladies Auxiliary, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, St. Vincent de Paul
- Many activities such as parish picnics, coffee after Mass, Spring teas etc.
- Involving parishioners in maintenance of the parish gives them a sense of ownership and pride.
- Bilingual and trilingual parishes successfully support and encourage one another in their diversity.
- Pre-Covid parish offered Alpha, Bible studies, Catechesis video series, Friday family movies bringing people in from across the city.
- On-going spiritual and compassionate leadership of our priests helps maintain ministries and is vital to the on-going vibrancy and mission of the church.
- Importance of school masses, (live-streaming of masses presently) and acknowledgement of the importance of technology now and in the future.
- Promote the Adoration chapel

Group 4:

- Liturgy, music, sacramental, mentorship, discipleship.
- Present more occasions to celebrate, offer family movie night, invite greater community with lighter offering.
- Homilies: speak to children in pews; offer more catechesis at Mass.
- More outreach needed to seniors and homebound.

Group 5:

- Lots of good happening.
- Telephone outreach program in the South Zone parishes = successful for connecting
- Coffee Sundays bring people together.
- Breakfast @ St. Joseph's helps to make the community aware of each other socialization; St. Joseph's mixing of tables at breakfast to meet others.
- Alpha/Presence Programs - good and positive feedback and allow participants to see different aspects of the church.
- Bible Studies - bringing 80-90 people, draws from all over the city.
- Channel 6 Mass - feedback good for outreach especially for seniors.
- Missions are coming up soon.
- Podcasts are positive.
- Mass for students should remain a normal part to help secure that parish/school connection.
- Vacation Bible School draws children into the church.
- Liturgy of the Word with Children allows children to be participants in the mass liturgy.
- Need to look at how we will bring people back after Covid; Zoom is a great working tool, need to expand on what we can offer through technology.
- Find a way to bring in the youth.
- Feed them...they will come.

5. Naming of Parish Family: Father Brian presented a brief overview.

- We have to decide on a name for the family early in the process.
- Review of protocol set by Diocese.
- Name for the family, must be geographical to reflect the area of the family, cannot include name of saint, cannot duplicate a name already used by another Family of Parishes.
- All parishes within the family keep their canonical name.
- Name is to be translated in all languages of parishes in the Family (Polish, French, Spanish).
- Name is vetted by Transition Team, approved by Father Brian and sent to Bishop for final approval.

The team discussed options and concluded that:

- Keeping it simple is best
- Can't use Lake Huron, Bluewater, St. Clair because other Families are using these already or the geographical areas reference other parishes who will be forming a family.

- Suggestion: Sarnia Roman Catholic Family of Parishes meets all criteria.
- Print protocol in bulletin; ask parishioners for input by March 22; parishioners can contact team members with suggestions; decision to be made at next meeting March 23.

6. Communication Plan: Chris Doyle

- a. It's important to get a Family of Parishes website up and running as soon as possible.
- b. eCatholic is used by the Diocese and many parishes; easy to use; excellent support and resources.
- c. Annie presented a mock up of the site.
- d. Each parish in the family would be identified by a picture of the parish; clicking on the picture brings people to pages specific to each parish and in French, Spanish and Polish.
- e. Volunteer would maintain the Family of Parishes website and each parish would assign a volunteer to maintain its specific pages/information.
- f. Information shared by the family is easily accessible.
- g. Family would also have 1 overall Facebook, Instagram, Twitter account to keep everything consistent.

7. Mass and Confession Schedule: Father Brian

- a. Once we are a family, we will have only 5 priests serving 7 churches.
- b. Changes will have to be made.
- c. Father Brian and Chris are meeting with all the priests on Friday to discuss the schedule.
- d. We have to remember that as well as daily and weekend Masses, there are school Masses, weddings and funerals.
- e. Parishioners should be encouraged to create a family community by attending Mass in each other's church.
- f. We need to lead by example.

8. Items to Communicate:

Logo:

- a. A logo which encompasses all 7 parishes will need to be designed.
- b. The logo, along with the Family of Parishes name will appear on all social media, bulletins, letterhead, advertising that pertains to the Family of Parishes.
- c. Volunteers from the team and from parishes will be needed, with artistic background if possible.
- d. More information will be shared in a couple of weeks.

Finance:

- a. Members of the parish finance committees will be forming a finance transition team. The team will consist of 8 to 10 people so a few more volunteers will be needed. Criteria for this group is being finalized and more information will go out in the next few weeks.

9. Discussion: how do we reach parishioners who do not have computers, email, electronics?

- a. Hard copy bulletins or handouts are not an option during Covid.
- b. Mailouts are costly and turnaround time is not optimum.
- c. Calling all parishioners would be an extensive undertaking needing a lot of volunteers for larger parishes.
- d. Solution: priests need to speak about this at each Mass; we need to get the word out as much as possible; word of mouth is the best option because of time restraints.

10. Action Items:

- Information on the Family of Parishes name to go in the bulletin this weekend; include Diocesan protocol on naming of a family; seek input from parishioners with a deadline of March 22.
- Email Chris, Annie or Father Brian if you are interested in serving on the logo committee
- Information about both the logo and finance committee will go in the bulletin in a couple of weeks.

11. Prayer Petitions, closing prayer, blessing:

12. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 7:30 PM on Zoom