

May 2021 Subcommittee Updates

Each month we will send out a summary of updates from each of the transition subcommittees.

Faith Formation Subcommittee

- 7 parish faith programs were identified: RCIA, Confirmation, Marriage Prep, Religious Ed (all levels & language), Adult catechism, CCD and Baptism
- The subcommittee developed a Faith Formation Spreadsheet to capture all programs in each parish - including multicultural and different language and Eucharistic faith programs.
- The spreadsheet addresses Faith Programs of each parish as to current schedule, certification and skill sets for teachers/trainers, program cost, resources used and list of current volunteers for each program.
- We continue to identify the unique gifts of Faith Formation observances such as activities, youth programs, senior support, festivals, reflections, veneration and adorations practiced by each parish to combine or bring to the new parish
- After new parish creation the subcommittee identified the following support from MFLF staff at Chancery: training and continued faith formation education, training retreats, points of contact for resources, teaching tool kits for faith formation teaching authorized by the archdiocese.
- Next meeting on 20 May will refine the inputs to the spreadsheet, come together as on team to develop a mature focused Faith Formation presentation for the new pastor.
- We agreed to wait until the formation of the new parish to start the list of potential volunteers for the faith programs.

Outreach Subcommittee

- No chair elected; Heather Shea (Holy Rosary) volunteered to be our scribe. Erica Cohen Moore from the Archdiocese is acting as an advisor/resource.
- Wrote the following description of our sub-committee:
 - *Through the gifts of time and talents of our volunteers, we are committed to continuing to serve all of the vulnerable and needy within the boundaries of the combined parish communities.*
- Identified all of the outreach ministries from each of the parishes.
- Our next step is to work on looking at what overlap we have and how to combine the ministries.

History/Archives Subcommittee

- Lisa Petrino (Holy Rosary) was elected chair. Seth Dalby from the Archdiocesan Archives is acting as an advisor/resource.
- The sub-committee acknowledged that only a few items encapsulating the history, culture, spiritual identity of each of the closing parishes can be moved to St. Ann.

- Rather than the whole sub-committee going through each church, it was decided that Seth Dalby will visit each parish to make a list of potential items and share photos of them with the rest of the sub-committee.
- The team will develop a tool for assessing what items the parishioners at each location see as important to their history (a survey?) When this is decided, we will make a list of recommendations for the incoming pastors regarding A) important historical items to carry forward to St Ann (both for regular use and for historical display), B) disposition of parish archives, and C) recommendations for disposing of other church items.

Liturgical Support Subcommittee

- Thom Ryng (Holy Rosary) was elected chair. Jennifer Day from the Archdiocesan Liturgy Office is acting as an advisor/resource.
- Group decided that their work consists of two parts: (a) determining the current liturgical and devotional life of each of the parishes and what is most important to parishioners - what made their parishes feel like home, and (b) making recommendations on what the future liturgical life of the new parish of the new, unified parish might look like.
- A survey was undertaken to look at both of these parts, and the results were collated into an initial "hopes and dreams" report.
- Using this information, the subcommittee is now tackling answers to the following questions, which will make up the bulk of their report to the new pastor: (1) How can we incorporate diversity in our liturgies? (2) How do we liturgically catechize? (3) What devotions will we have regularly or at various times of the year? (4) How will we continue to evaluate the sacred liturgy? (5) How do we merge liturgical ministries? (6) In the best of all possible worlds, what would the liturgical life of the new parish look like?

Communications Subcommittee

- Kathy McSperitt from Visitation Parish elected Chair, with Helen McClenahan from Archdiocese is acting as advisor.
- Discussion around the need for clear updates on status and progress during this transition time. Research alternative ways for timely updates to as many Parishioners as possible.
- Communications team will collect updates from subcommittees and Stakeholders to be submitted through established approval process for publication.
- Transition prayer created, to open each sub-committee meeting and offered for use by other sub-committees. Prayer published in Visitation Parish Bulletin and with Auxiliary Bishop Moeggenborg's letter to the Parishes in transition.
- Began audit of all the current communication channels at each parish and made recommendation for communication channel needs for the new parish.

- Opened discussion around parish databases and how to effectively invite people to join and register at the new parish.
- Develop suggestions for future communications which consider the graduated roll-in of Parish(s).

Transition Prayer

Prepared by the Communications Sub-committee

Heavenly Father,

**We thank you for gathering us together and calling us
to serve as your disciples.**

**You have charged us through Your Son, Jesus, and his shepherds,
with the great mission of evangelizing and witnessing
your love to the world.**

**Send your Holy Spirit to guide us as we discern Your will
for the spiritual renewal of our parish communities.
Give us strength, courage, and clear vision
as we use our gifts to serve You.**

**We entrust our parish families to the care of Mary, our Mother
and ask for her intercession and guidance as we strive to bear
witness to the Gospel,
celebrating the qualities of each faith filled community
and together building an engaging parish.**

Amen