

**Auburn-N. Cayuga Planning Team  
Minutes from January 16, 2018  
St. Hyacinth, Auburn**

**Attendance**

Present: **Holy Family:** Liza Kelly, **Our Lady of the Snow:** Fr. Bill Darling, Diane Case, Edward O’Neil, **Sacred Heart/St. Ann:** Patrick Dooley, **Ss. Mary and Martha, St. Mary’s:** Fr. Frank Lioi, Fr. Erick Vilorio, **Ss. Mary and Martha:** Dan Szozda, James Malinowski, **St. Alphonsus:** Fr. Tim Niven, Lisa Ann Homic, Nancy Camardo, **St. Mary’s:** Joseph Manning, **St. Joseph School:** Anne Marie Duffy, **Staff representatives:** Shawn Gillen-Caryl, Aaron Wilson, **Diocesan staff:** Karen Rinefierd, Tom Kubus

Excused: **Holy Family:** Fr. John Gathenya, Robert Ringwood, **Sacred Heart/St. Ann:** Fr. Michael Brown, Kim Guinnip (alternate for Fr. Brown), Frank DeOrio, **St. Mary’s:** Ed Fenzl

<u>Previous Action Items</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>By When</u>
Compile list of fundraisers (which ones are held and when) for one’s own parish	Business managers/ bookkeepers	done— needs to be distributed
Compile list of the ministries at one’s own parish with a brief description of each	Pastors to delegate to someone at their parish(es)	11/20
Compile how many contributed through envelopes at each parish in 2016/17	Tom	10/26
Post finalized minutes and data already gathered on shared website	Karen to Jerome Brabant	ongoing
Ensure that documents posted on the website are also available in parish offices	Karen	ongoing
Enter data from hard copy surveys into survey monkey	Each parish	done
Provide information about diocesan vocation efforts	Karen	
Provide description of each Mass at one’s parish (e.g. music, composition of congregation, anything special that happens at the Mass)	Diane (OLOS) Staff (St. Alphon) Fr. Lioi (SM, SMM) Frank (SH) Pat (St. Ann) Liza (HF)	done
Each parish’s pastoral and finance councils meet to discuss 9 scenarios and generate additional advantages and disadvantages of each	Pastoral and finance councils	done
Feedback from each pastoral and finance council to be sent to Karen who will email all these documents to the planning team	Someone from each pastoral council and	done

	finance council; Karen	
Select and invite members to serve on the buildings subcommittee; email name and contact information to Tom	Pastors	done
Send out the parish configuration advantages and disadvantages identified by each parish's pastoral and finance council as well as a compiled list	Karen	done
Prepare summary and complete reports of the Ministry Assessment Survey results	Karen, Tom	January
Update the Mass attendance data to include October 2017 and the accurate worship space capacities	Tom	done
Do layout and graphic design for prayer created by Fr. Erick	Kim	done
<b>New Action Items from this meeting</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By When</b>
Send to Karen the dates of upcoming pastoral and finance council meetings	Fr. Brown, Fr. Darling, Fr. Gathenya, Fr. Niven	ASAP
Draft letter to Bishop Matano regarding proposed future parish configuration	Fr. Lioi	ASAP
Suggest any needed changes to the draft letter	All	ASAP
Send finalized letter to the Bishop	Fr. Lioi	Late January or early February
Draft a bulletin article to communicate the parish configuration recommendation by the planning team	Karen	ASAP
Provide someone to take notes at future planning team meetings	The hosting parish	Ongoing

## Miscellaneous items

### Distribution of information gathered since last meeting

- Updated timeline and action steps
- Maps showing locations of parishioners from Our Lady of the Snow and Sacred Heart/St. Ann
- Parish configuration scenarios with Mass attendance and households
- October Mass attendance 2012-2017 by parish and by time
- Descriptions of each of the current weekend Masses

### Reviewing where we are with our timeline and areas for planning/adjustments to the schedule as needed

- Karen distributed an updated timeline, showing what we have completed thus far and adjusting some of the dates.
- Identifying pastoral care being currently provided to various entities beyond the parishes and Catholic schools and their needs will be deferred until at least April.
- The pastors will meet again in February with the finance director to reach agreement on one of the options presented to create a shared finance/business office.

- Tom shared that the subcommittee to look at building usage is still in the process of being created. Its work will happen over the March-June timeframe.

#### Ministries assessment surveys – agenda item for February pastoral council and finance council meetings

- The reports on the ministries assessment are not yet complete.
- Planning team members indicated that many of the councils do not meet in February. The finance councils just met and some of the pastoral councils will meet again in March. Fr. Lioi had previously given Karen the dates of his pastoral council meetings (St. Mary's February 20 and Ss. Mary and Martha April 24<sup>th</sup>). The other pastors present agreed to send to Karen the dates of their upcoming meetings.
- **Clarification from Karen after the meeting:** It is only the pastoral councils that need to work with the results of the ministries assessment to identify their parish's priorities and opportunities for greater ministerial cooperation across our parishes. The finance councils can be involved in this effort at their pastor's discretion and depending on their interest.

#### Note taking at future planning team meetings (Abigail is moving to Maine at the end of the month)

- There was agreement that the hosting parish will provide someone to take notes.

#### Setting May meeting date – Tuesday, May 1, 6:45 pm, at Holy Family

#### Setting March/April parishioner meetings to review possible weekend Mass schedules

- We need to offer several options between daytime and evening
- Allow 2 hours per session
- Have a written survey for those who do not want to speak
- **Monday, April 9, 1:30-3:30 pm at St. Alphonsus Church**
- **Monday, April 9, 7:00-9:00 pm at St. Joseph Church in Weedsport**
- **Wednesday, April 25, 1:00-3:00 pm at Sacred Heart**
- **Wednesday, April 25, 6:00-8:00 pm at St. Mary's parish hall**
- The previously scheduled planning team meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> is cancelled.

#### School subcommittee update – Joe Manning

- Have had two meetings.
- Focus is on recruitment, fundraising and connection to the parishes.
- Jim Tausel, interim principal, seems like a big boon for the school – young, energetic, and focused on enrollment from the bottom up.
- Next meeting is scheduled for March.

#### **Reaching planning team preference on parish configuration with projected four priests rather than the current six**

Each planning team member indicated their first and second choice preference. The nine scenarios were reduced to three:

- Scenario A: Cluster 1 (Our Lady of the Snow, St. Mary's, Ss. Mary and Martha) with a Pastor and Parochial Vicar and Cluster 2 (Holy Family, Sacred Heart/St. Ann, St. Alphonsus) with a Pastor and Parochial Vicar
- Scenario D: Cluster 1 (Holy Family and Our Lady of the Snow) with a Pastor, Cluster 2 (St. Mary's and Ss. Mary and Martha) with a Pastor and Cluster 3 (Sacred Heart/St. Ann and St. Alphonsus)

with a Pastor – there would also be a Parochial Vicar assigned to one Pastor who would be shared among the 3 clusters and provide ministry at the prison)

- Scenario G: Cluster 1 (Holy Family and Our Lady of the Snow) with a Pastor, Cluster 2 (St. Mary's and Ss. Mary and Martha) with a Pastor, Cluster 3 (Sacred Heart/St. Ann) with a Pastor, St. Alphonsus as a stand-alone parish with a Pastor)

Discussion/comments regarding the three remaining scenarios being considered:

- Likes G because 4 priests is very inflexible
- Likes A because both clusters have a Pastor and a Parochial Vicar
- Thinks a shared Parochial Vicar is an easy resource to take away
- Likes A because the Parochial Vicars would have some stability. It would be easier for two Pastors, rather than the current five, to work together.
- Thinks losing a Parochial Vicar would require another round of pastoral planning
- Easier to find two good, stable pastors
- Everyone is expecting D so we shouldn't do it. If we choose D, we just wasted our time.
- D is the least disruptive – parishes in each cluster are already working together in some ways
- A newly-ordained priest would have difficulty being shared among all of our churches since it would be difficult for him to develop relationships with parishioners.
- Having 2 clusters means losing uniqueness
- 3 clusters means the Parochial Vicar would be a nomad
- A gives stability to the priests
- Masses can be spread better over 2 clusters rather than 3
- 2 clusters would allow flexibility with the priests
- G doesn't allow the flexibility for priests
- Personality and time are the main determinants on where people got to Mass – not the priest
- Our Lady of the Snow has many funerals
- Cato is an outlier – how far should those who live in the Cato area be expected to drive for Mass?
- Route 34 connects Our Lady of the Snow parishioners to Ss. Mary and Martha, Route 38 to St. Mary's
- If D is chosen now, it cannot lead later to A since it joins Holy Family and Our Lady of the Snow

Two members said that, after this discussion, they would now prefer A rather than G. A decision was made to eliminate G from consideration.

Planning team members present were asked to indicate if they preferred A or D and why. Eight preferred Scenario D:

- Because there are already some synergies between the parishes of the proposed clusters
- Agreed with the above; also, this scenario is most comfortable for the population
- Because A creates a lot more work for Cluster 1 priests
- Because A may only end up with 2 churches sooner. Worried that the Pastor of Cluster 1 (Our Lady of the Snow, St. Mary's, Ss. Mary and Martha) will burn out covering 6 churches
- Preferred D but worried Parochial Vicar might be the first to be pulled out and given another assignment
- Because D will be least disruptive. A has to cover too many churches
- Because D is less dramatic for the community

- Because an older Parochial Vicar would be happy to just help out with sacraments and this scenario is least disruptive

Eight preferred Scenario A:

- Because of the greater priest stability
- Because each cluster has a Parochial Vicar in addition to the Pastor. A splits Mass attendance equally between the two clusters. In A each cluster will develop an identity in addition to that of the individual parishes or churches.
- Because D will work fine in the short term. A has a better chance of lasting because of the balance of people. St. Mary's is the foundational part of Cluster 1 and St. Alphonsus for Cluster 2. Going for the long range rather than short-term ease.
- Because of the shared Parochial Vicar in D. A seems to have longer-term prospects.
- A will have better flow with only 2 pastors making decisions
- A will be least disruptive and has stability for the future
- A by a whisker—the stability of parishes and the two Parochial Vicars.
- Because of stability and equal Mass attendance.

Further discussion:

- We are now 50/50 among the planning team members who are present. Should we just send both of these to Bishop Matano and not continue to work toward an agreement on one?
- Everyone present indicated that they could support either scenario.
- Would one of these be easier to step into since we do not know when a priest will be given senior priest status or be reassigned?
- We need evangelization to connect young people to the Catholic church

After the continued discussion, two planning team members switched their preference from D to A. All present agreed to recommend Scenario A to Bishop Matano. Fr. Lioi agreed to draft a letter to the Bishop. The draft will be sent to planning team members for revisions and then Fr. Lioi will send the finalized letter to Bishop Matano. Karen will draft a bulletin article to parishioners for everyone to review.

#### **Next steps**

- We deferred the topic “agreement on principles and practical considerations that need to be met by the new weekend Mass schedule” until the next meeting.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, February 15, at 6:45 pm, at St. Francis of Assisi