

Auburn-N. Cayuga Planning Team
Wednesday, March 7, 2018 – 6:45-8:45 pm
St. John's, 36 Rochester St., Port Byron

Attendance

Present: **Holy Family:** Fr. John Gathenya, Liza Kelly, Robert Ringwood, **Our Lady of the Snow:** Fr. Bill Darling, Edward O’Neil, **Sacred Heart/St. Ann:** Fr. Michael Brown, Frank DeOrio, Patrick Dooley, Kim Guinnip (alternate for Fr. Brown), **Ss. Mary and Martha, St. Mary’s:** Fr. Frank Lioi, Fr. Erick Vilorio, **Ss. Mary and Martha:** Dan Szozda, **St. Alphonsus:** Fr. Tim Niven, Lisa Ann Homic, Nancy Camardo, **St. Mary’s:** Joseph Manning, **Staff representative:** Aaron Wilson, **Diocesan staff:** Karen Rinefierd, Tom Kubus

Excused: **Our Lady of the Snow:** Diane Case, **Ss. Mary and Martha:** James Malinowski, **St. Joseph School:** Anne Marie Duffy, **Staff representative:** Shawn Gillen-Caryl

Previous Action Items	Who	By When
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
Provide information about diocesan vocation efforts	Karen	
Draft a bulletin article to communicate the parish configuration recommendation by the planning team	Karen	done
Provide someone to take notes at future planning team meetings	The hosting parish	Ongoing
Revise the template for creating a Mass scenario	Karen	done
Create a Mass scenario and send to Karen	Planning team members	done
Use the ministry summary reports and the accompanying worksheet to prioritize ministries at the next pastoral council meeting (may also use with finance council); send completed worksheet to Karen for use of planning team	Pastors and pastoral council/ finance council reps	6/1
New Action Items from this meeting	Who	By When
Draft a bulletin insert about the Mass schedule	Karen	ASAP
Submit suggested revisions to the draft insert	All	
Work out who will do what at parishioner meetings	All	

Opening prayer: Prayer for Guidance

Miscellaneous

Setting a June planning team meeting date: Thursday June 14, 6:45 pm, at Sacred Heart.

Feedback from the parish pastoral and finance councils that have already worked with the ministry assessment survey reports: Some struggled with identifying what ministries to safeguard in the midst of changes and what to improve. Some thought it was terrific – only looked at summarized results to develop strategies in order to develop plans.

Bulletin insert regarding the Mass schedule scenarios and the 4/9, 4/25 parishioner meetings:

- The insert will be in bulletins the weekend of March 24-25.
- Content: Mass attendance numbers, principles, details about parishioner meetings, Mass schedule options decided tonight. Will be two sides.
- Karen will draft and planning team members will review.
- There will also be pulpit announcements about the parishioner meetings the weekend before the meetings.

Choosing Mass scenarios to present to parishioners (from the ones proposed by individual planning team members since the last meeting) – The planning team worked in two groups, one for members that are in cluster 1 and the other including those in cluster 2. Some of the discussion:

Cluster 1 (Our Lady of the Snow, St. Mary's, Ss. Mary and Martha)

- A rotation of Masses between St. Joseph and St. Patrick would not work since St. Patrick cannot provide the same amount of parking space.
- It would be hard to rationalize ending a Mass at St. Francis in favor of St. John or St. Patrick based on the numbers attending.
- If there is no Mass at St. Patrick, the parishioners would likely disperse and not all go to St. Joseph. Cato is closest to Jordan in the Diocese of Syracuse (although their church is already crowded) and some parishioners may live closer to another church within the Diocese of Rochester than to St. Joseph's.
- If there were only one Mass for Our Lady of the Snow, the financial impact would seriously harm the parish's viability.
- A Saturday afternoon Mass at St. Patrick might be attractive for older parishioners and those with responsibilities for milking cows.
- It was noted that Ss. Mary and Martha is half the size of St. Mary's while Our Lady of the Snow is half the size of Ss. Mary and Martha.
- It makes sense to keep two Masses at Our Lady of the Snow because of the distances.
- If St. John's has no Mass, the parishioners might go to St. Joseph, St. Hyacinth, or St. Mary's.
- Having only one Sunday morning Mass for Ss. Mary and Martha would save on plowing.
- Questions to pose to parishioners at the meetings:
 - Do those who would attend Masses at Ss. Mary and Martha prefer having the Saturday Mass always at St. Hyacinth and the Sunday Mass at St. Francis OR would they prefer a rotation?
 - Do those who would attend Masses at St. Patrick prefer that the Saturday Mass be at 4:00 or 4:30 pm?

Cluster 2 (Holy Family, Sacred Heart/St. Ann, St. Alphonsus)

- Started by eliminating the 5 Mass schedule based on the concept that we would be underutilizing a priest.
- Then the 8 Mass schedules were eliminated based on the theory that 8 Masses would give 4 every weekend to both priests and then every 4th week each of the priests would be rotating through the regional Mass.
- That left the group to focus on the 7 and 6 Mass schedules.

- A main principle that we agreed to use to evaluate Mass schedules was to minimize the alienation of parishioners so we started by looking at the most well attended of the current Mass schedule to see if we could minimize changes there.
- It was pointed out that about 500 people attended the 3 current Masses on Saturday and about 700 attended the current Masses on Sunday. From that, we concluded that we need to keep 3 Masses on Saturday.
- Consequently, we ended up tweaking the Saturday portion of Scenario 2D to keep the best attended Saturday Masses (4:00 at St. Alphonsus and 4:30 at Sacred Heart).
- We then discussed whether the Saturday Mass at Holy Family should be at 5:30 or 6:00 and we settled on 6:00.
- We felt so strongly about this Saturday schedule that we thought our alternate Scenario should be the same for Saturday.
- Before the Sunday schedule was discussed, the question was asked if the regional Mass would remain at St. Alphonsus. After some discussion we felt that it would probably be on the campus that has the best facility for the youth to meet. While that is currently St. Alphonsus and the Sunday evening Mass will likely remain there, we should not take that as a given.
- When discussing the Sunday Mass schedule, we tried to keep the largest attended Masses as similar as possible while still allowing the priests enough time to travel between churches. That gave us a 7 Mass schedule.
- When noticing that Masses on Sunday did not start until 8:30 or 9:00, one priest asked why the priests do not preside at 4 Masses plus their turn with the Regional Mass. They all agreed so we added the 8th Mass (7:30 am at Sacred Heart).
- When thinking we now had two 8 Mass offerings, we came up with a 7.5 Mass offering by changing the Mass at St. Ann's to seasonal.

Logistics for parishioner meetings

- Parishioners will be able to give input orally or through a written survey. They will be asked to contribute their wisdom so that the pastors and the rest of the planning team can make the best decision. They will not be voting.
- We reviewed the draft agenda for the meetings.
- Specific locations of meetings at each parish: St. Alphonsus—church, St. Joseph—church, Sacred Heart—parish hall, St. Mary's—parish hall.
- Karen will send out an email asking which roles planning team members are willing to take and which meetings they can attend.

Closing prayer: Our Father