

Walworth Deanery - Fall Meeting Notes

Held at St. Joseph Parish Hall, Lyons, WI on 9/18/2023

In attendance were: Fr. Jim Volkert/Dean, Tom Fredrickson/Arch Mil HR, Millie McCormick/APC/SFDS, Kathleen Murray/APC/ SFDS, Jim Talken/SB, Steve Letellier/SP-WW, Jackie Fonk/KR Catholics = SFX/SJB/SMD/SRB, Michelle Hermann/KR Catholics = SFX/SJB/SMD/SRB, John Clements/HC/SA/SJ, Lucy Dinegan/SJ, Don Siehoff/SM/SC, Jim Banta/SP-ELK, Don Smith/SJ-TL, Chris Charapata/SC.

Our meeting began at 6:03pm with a prayer led by Fr. Jim.

Tom Fredrickson, ArchMil Human Resources introduced himself to the group:

- * Tom is a parishioner at St. Mary's in Hales Corners.
- * Former deanery rep; relatable to our group on many levels.
- * His position at ArchMil is to lend support to pastors & parish leaders.
- * Do reach out to the archdiocese with your questions re: parish & parish schools.
- * Eucharistic Congress '24 Indianapolis, IN = 5 busses going from the archdiocese

Approved meeting notes from Spring '23 - Motion to approve: Jim/Michelle - All in favor.

Responses to questions for the Archbishop's from the Spring '23 APC Meeting:

- * The Archbishop will try to say Mass at one parish in every deanery before he retires.
- * There are specific procedures for moving a tabernacle, contact the Office of Worship.
- * General absolution should be offered only in the rarest of circumstances.
- * Pastors do have input into pastoral associate assignments.
- * Parishes should be aware that the archdiocese is there to help. Call the general number if you are unsure and your call will be directed to the appropriate department.

The Archbishop requested three topics for our meeting discussions:

1) Catholic Identity - What makes us different? The celebration of the Eucharist at every Mass * Mass is appealing to all Catholics * Burlington Catholic has great catechetical instruction at the schools; but not seeing it carry over to the parents * All schools should be linked to a church * Being Catholic means being 'counter cultural' - we support life from 'conception to natural death' * In the old days more Catholics attended Mass, yet were not necessarily catechized properly - we are now seeing the results * The Catholic Faith is foreign to many Catholics * Part of the beauty of the Catholic Church is the structure & guidance it gives us*

2) Evangelization - Ideally, the Walworth County Deanery would develop a program for 20-35 year old Catholics * Warhawk Catholic has a great college program in conjunction with St. Patrick's in Whitewater; but only for college students * St. Francis Xavier held a service project/ mission trip to LaCrosse for their high school students * The St. Charles youth group has great steam * St. Pat's Elkhorn has a Men's Club/ breakfast group * Many of the parishes have break-off groups using the Men of Christ model as an example.

3) Stewardship = Time, Talent, Treasure, and (many forget) *PRAYER* * Encourage young parish members to be on councils and committees * Be welcoming to young families * Have young family 'hosts' that speak to other young families in the parish and at parish events * 'fear' in volunteering?? spell it out, break it into smaller pieces so young families can fit volunteering into their busy schedules * reach out to all parish members; young, old, new, and people you have not seen in a while (wellness checks) * Train your volunteers; do not just throw them into a roll they may not be familiar with * Paid positions, such as a volunteer coordinator/ fundraiser may give parishes a leg-up on volunteerism, and more lucrative fundraisers which could help reduce volunteer 'burn-out' and build better volunteer networks *

Questions for the Archbishop:

- * Will the Archbishop be retiring next spring?
- * What is the reason Catholic Charities does not reach into Walworth County?
- * Please express our thanks to the Archbishop for his extraordinary leadership.
- * The Parish Councils Congress/ Missionary Planning event/team was/is amazing.
- * Some confusion over the Archbishops 'Love One Another' weekly communication and the Love One Another (financial) Campaign - they are very different, see below:

NOTE:

Access to the Archbishop's LOA Communication (*aka: newsletter*) go to:

<https://www.archmil.org/Our-Faith/Blogs/Archbishop-Listecki.htm>

Information about the LOA Campaign can be found at:

<https://www.loveoneanothermke.org/Campaign-2021>

Closing prayer led by: Fr. Jim

Set next meeting date: TBD

Meeting adjourned: 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen Murray, APC Rep
Millie McCormick, APC Secretary