

## DEANERY ASSEMBLY REPORT FORM – Spring 2023

Deanery: Dodge Washington Meeting Date: 4/24/23

Report Submitted By: Gwendolyn Hermes

### Parish Deanery Assembly Representatives/Parishes Present:

Gwendolyn Hermes	Annunciation Parish, Fox Lake
Judy Daley	St. Mary of the Hill
Jim Ramsey	St. Joseph, Waupun
Mara Schumaker	St. Michael/Holy Trinity, Kewauskum
Christy Strumm	St. Boniface
David Del Ponte	St. Boniface
Kevin Neugent	Holy Angels, West Bend
Tim Riedl	Holy Angels, West Bend
Carolyn Weyker	St. Gabriel, Hubertus
Bob Pfundstein	Archdiocese
Lisa Richter	Sacred Heart, Horicon
Gregg Jashinsky	St. Francis Cabrini
Kyle Rate	Resurrection, Allenton
Harold Sierchs	St. Mary's Immaculate Conception
Julie Ferstl	St. Katharine Drexel, Beaver Dam
Maureen Gehring	St. Lawrence Parish
Angie Cleary	St. Lawrence Parish
Dan Kern	St. Peter, Slinger
Kevin	St. Killian, Hartford

1. Did your deanery need to discern a new APC representative? Yes ☐ No ☒  
If yes, who was selected? (Name, parish, email, phone, and mailing address please)

2. Did you have a presentation on a specific topic? Yes ☒ No ☐  
If Yes, what was the topic, who was the presenter, and what were the main points of the presentation?

Joe Meyer Executive Director of the Catholic Ecology Center in Neosho spoke about the Center, opportunities for youth service, youth formation, retreats, and other programming.

### 3. Comments or Questions from Meeting Topics Discussed:

No comments or questions on the information presented from the 12/3 or 3/18 APC meetings.

### 4. Deanery items for the attention of the archbishop:

- Share one significant way Synod priorities are being implemented at your parish.
- Is there any other significant parish activity, which happened, is happening or being discussed that you want to share. Feel free to bring one handout.

### Annunciation Parish

- In the area of formation, a committee has been formed to plan parish events for the Eucharistic Revival, with an emphasis on small groups. Four tentative small groups planned for summer.

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- b. Discussion within the parish and the councils about upcoming transition to new pastor.

St. Mary of the Hill

- a. First RCIA class since 2019; kneeler brought to the altar to receive communion; individuals with cognitive disabilities being included in programs; Human Concerns committee is partnering with Fr. Celledonia at Holy Hill to include Spanish community in parish activities
- b. Parish will be celebrating 100 years in 2024 and has begun planning; also fundraising and planning for a dedicated worship space (new construction).

St. Joseph

- a. Regarding Catholic Identity, St. Joseph's parish shares a subscription for FORMED.org with Annunciation Parish for members to access educational materials of the Catholic faith, Catholic tradition. Also live streaming Mass and other activities and services (Shadow Stations of the Cross).
- b. St. Joseph's sponsored an hour of Christmas music on a local radio station on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Holy Trinity and St. Michael

- a. Pastor is celebrating Mass ad orientem, which has increased reverence and attracted new parishioners and young families.
- b. Development of small groups in Lent 2022 which are still going and growing. Development of Altar Guild for girls and Servers Guild for boys.

St. Boniface

- a. Strong Human Concerns committee; supporting Ghana, food pantry, lots of volunteers, work with homeless shelter in Milwaukee. Focusing on strong religious education for all ages. Had a successful golf outing to invite the community to interact with parish; spaghetti support for schools; trying to build a bigger presence in the community. Successful Love One Another campaign and planning how to use the funds.
- b. Numbers are returning to Mass, but not quite at the pre-COVID level. 500+ attended Easter Mass.

Holy Angels

- a. Working to start and maintain small groups in a "formational" method
- b. Attendance at Mass is increasing, but not yet at the pre-COVID level. Put a new roof on the school.
- c. Question for the Archbishop: If you haven't encountered Jesus yet, what good is the Eucharist? (I wasn't entirely sure where they were going with this. It seemed to be criticism of the Revival, but from what I know of the Revival, the point is to encounter Jesus.)

St. Gabriel

- a. Actively preparing for the Revival, large banner in Gathering Space, preaching about the Real Presence, promoting the Revival.
- b. Pastoral Council, Finance Council, staff, commissions, school faculty are reading and discussing Made for Mission: Renewing Your Parish Culture.

Sacred Heart

- a. Exceeded pledge goal for LOA; youth mission trip to New York; re-started Human Concerns committee with new members since COVID.
- b. Parish has reintroduced Blood of Christ at Communion

St. Francis Cabrini

- a. Blessing of the Adoration Chapel in February
- b. In a transition phase, awaiting new pastor

Resurrection

- a. LOA silent phase
- b. Discussing reintroducing the Blood of Christ at council; likely on Corpus Christi

St. Mary's Immaculate Conception

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- a. Formation: short on small groups, but have Journey Program for those 6 years-adult with cognitive disabilities. Parish has email blast of weekly “low budget evangelization”

St. Katharine Drexel

- a. Renovation completed June 2020. Still working to increase attendance. Have had a significant turnover in “faithful volunteers” once the renovation project was completed. Currently in process of re-writing mission and vision statements that more accurately reflect who the parish is now and looking to fill voids in leadership and on committees.

St. Lawrence Parish

- a. Formation: evening and daytime small group sessions related to Revival. Restructuring Religious Education program with Learn It and Live It program—some nights class, some nights Adoration, Rosary, etc., with families included.
- b. Reintroducing the Blood of Christ with education from the pulpit and in the bulletin

St. Peter

- a. Formation: Cluster held a Parish Mission before Lent with 3 morning sessions and 3 evening sessions, very successful. Human Concerns: hosting a “celebration of life” baby shower to raise funds for Seed of Hope Center in West Bend.
- b. St. Peter School enrolled in the School Choice Program.

St. Killian Hartford/St. John Rubicon

- a. Expressing frustration that smaller parish has same number of Masses as larger St. Killian’s. Only 85 at parish school, used to be 200-250. Positive note that 60 kids are attending a work camp.

5. Significant new ways parishes are planning for the post-pandemic church:

St. Joseph’s is using the Eucharistic Revival to prepare for the reintroduction of receiving the Blood of Christ at Mass.

Holy Trinity and St. Michael’s realized how much energy had been spent on extra and unnecessary things and has refocused on initiatives directly related to the Sacraments.

St. Gabriel continues to live stream Mass and are close to pre-pandemic numbers at weekend Masses.

6. Any other comments or questions?

Discussion about how to increase participation among younger generation. One idea that has met some success at St. Gabriel is to have all committee/commission meetings on the same night: start with prayer service, then meet, then socialize afterward to build community among leadership and volunteers.

Fellowship Sunday once a month with representatives from the different committees is not well attended.

7. Future Meeting Dates, Time, and Location:

Fall 2023: October 16 at 6:00, St. Lawrence Parish

Spring 2024: April 15 or April 22, at 6:00 at St. Gabriel’s

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