

## DEANERY ASSEMBLY REPORT FORM – Spring 2023

Deanery: Milwaukee Southeast Meeting Date: April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Report Submitted By: Adam Engman

### Parish Deanery Assembly Representatives/Parishes Present:

Edward Pings (Paul Jaloski) – St James

Edean Preob – SS Cyril & Methodius

Nicole Brzezinski – Blessed Sacrament

Sue Gorski – Archdiocese Staff

Valerie McCarron – Blessed Sacrament

Matthew Knorr – St Matthew

Julio Santiago – St Roman

Ralph Kessler – Sacred Heart of Jesus

Cindy Semski – Divine Mercy

Adam Engman – St Charles Borromeo

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)

A representative in attendance expressed willingness and interest to become an APC representative.

Follow-up with this individual is required to confirm his/her discernment decision.

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?

- Cindy and Adam did a recap of the APC meeting and talked in greater detail about the office of Evangelization & Catechesis.
- Discussion about Eucharistic Revival
- Discussion about Galilee U
- Discussion about Archbishop's report
- Discussion about increasing participation in the Deanery

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

- Best communication ideas for the deanery suggestions:
  - a. Email is easier than calling people. More emails. Send handouts ahead of time to have an idea ahead of time what the topics will be.
  - b. Google groups? All parishes just use email. Nobody is using Google groups.
  - c. Contact lists are stale, landlines disconnected for cell phone numbers
  - d. Checking into Flock note to create a Deanery group
  - e. Parishes use email/text applications but they try not to over communicate. Looks like direct email from parish office.
  - f. Two members of the assembly agreed to assist the deanery reps with communication.
- Eucharistic revival has been needed for a long time. The attendance thus far has been good, and they are working on the initiative at their parish.

*Please return completed form to Rosalita Villa. You can contact her at either [villar@archmil.org](mailto:villar@archmil.org) or 414-758-2217*

4. Deanery items for the attention of the archbishop:
  - a. Share one significant way Synod priorities are being implemented at your parish.
  - b. 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.
  - St James – Bringing back Adoration (1<sup>st</sup> Friday). There are 30-50 attendees.
  - Divine Mercy 3/31 – 4/1 24 hour adoration. Stations, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Worship songs, prayer
  
5. Significant new ways parishes are planning for the post-pandemic church:
  - St James has been struggling to recover the participation of children and the youth of the parish. There is a decrease in children's liturgy of the word participation.
  - Divine Mercy parish had 9 catechumens at East vigil this year, which was an increase over last year. They hold Buddy Mass and children read, usher, sing in choir, etc. The parish is focusing harder on linking the parish to the school, since the school campus is separated at another site.
  - Cyril Methodius Polish Mass and Eucharistic procession in the neighborhood.
  - St Roman is trying to integrate English and Spanish speaking communities. Internal ESL classes have been formed to encourage more participation in the English liturgy and programs. They are a Seton school, and 15 parents are enrolled in the volunteer parish ESL program. Also, there is an idea to do SSL program so English-speaking community can join Spanish liturgies and programs. They use a computer program and have in-person instruction to reinforce online learning. People from Seton attends and they are looking for opportunities to roll out the program to other parishes.
  - St Matthew has been working on evangelization and coming to Mass. Lower participation in Sunday Mass among school families, but participation appears to be on the rise. On Holy Thursday there was an 18% increase in attendance. More personal invitations is an approach to school families to boost participation. They have been noticing a segment of the parish that has not returned to Mass since covid and the parish is working on ways to emphasize the importance of the Eucharist.
  - A parish is having extreme difficulty finding volunteers to serve on pastoral council. They can only fill 6 of their 12 positions.
  
6. Any other comments or questions?
  - Three parishes questioned why their churches have the tabernacle off to the side and not front and center behind the altar.
  - The Archdiocese is putting out too many programs at the same time. The pastoral councils' congress was beneficial, but it seems to be getting overshadowed by all the other initiatives. I think the initiatives should be carried forth and not just forgotten while we move on to the next program.
  - An organic and extended discussion took place regarding the Love One Another capital campaign.
    - a. Making calls to top donors. Active donors have a problem with the Archdiocese, feeling disconnected, not forgiving the scandals, paying victims. Several people have specified that their LOA donations go 100% to the parish.
    - b. Marketing is aggressive for LOA. People have complained and it is stirring up negative sentiment. Parishioners are leaving because of the aggressive marketing.

***Please return completed form to Rosalita Villa. You can contact her at either [villar@archmil.org](mailto:villar@archmil.org) or 414-758-2217***

- c. Deceased members of the parish are being contacted, as are parishioners who have already pledged and even started contributing. That is bad and should not be happening.
  - d. This is not about prayer, not about building community, it's all about money.
  - e. We need real metrics. How many donors there are and what is the average participation rate/amount? We need true metrics. The LOA consultant said that 13% of the parishioners tend to donate and it creates more frustration when people reflect on the 87% of parishioners who are not donating.
  - f. There is a healing process that needs to happen. The archdiocese appears callous and uncaring due to the needs of the flock not being acknowledged.
  - g. There are wealthy parishes with a \$1M+ goal and it was paid by 3 parishioners, and they met their goal. That's great that the money was raised, but what does that do to build community.
  - h. There is a lot of tracking when it comes to money. Do we keep track of prayer as diligently as we do money? We need organized prayer for healing, and need to demonstrate that we are doing more than just raising money as a part of LOA. There is a contribution that we can make, that's not money but through prayer. Prayer is big. Why does it not feel like it? What is the purpose of gathering that money and having the church at all. It's for honor and worship of God. Prayer means so much more than money.
  - i. The Archdiocese has mass of atonement, but more is needed.
  - j. There should be a limit on the campaigns. There are already 3 annual campaigns and to add this on top of those, it feels like a lot. There are a lot of retired parishioners on fixed incomes.
  - k. In schools, for students in Choice program, we cannot ask them to give time/money to the parish because the school is receiving money from the government.
  - l. Volunteering is not what it used to be. People expect to be paid if they are going to give their time.
  - m. We cannot function without money.
  - n. The relationship between the Archdiocese and the Parishes requires healing. The archdiocese is too aggressive.
  - o. Within our deanery, one parish hit 125% of the goal and another hit 90%, another parish is at 50% of the goal and the donations were covered by 25 families. Even at 90% the parish said it was the largest raised in a capital campaign, so the fundraising strategy is working.
  - p. If we look at the % of parishioners giving to the campaign, what does our success rate look like, then? Is the perception of "fewer people giving more" a healthy place to be with our Archdiocese? Is this perception even accurate? Some people think we need to see these metrics, as well, not just pledges.
7. Future Meeting Dates, Time, and Location: TBD, we are working on logistics but targeting 10/2, 10/9 or 10/16 from 6:30-8:00 PM at Divine Mercy.

***Please return completed form to Rosalita Villa. You can contact her at either [villar@archmil.org](mailto:villar@archmil.org) or 414-758-2217***