

DEANERY ASSEMBLY REPORT FORM – Fall 2023

Deanery: Dodge Washington

Meeting Date: October 16, 2023

Report Submitted By: Gwendolyn Hermes

Attendance, by Parish:

Gwendolyn Hermes, Annunciation Parish
Maureen Gehring, St. Lawrence
Angie Cleary, St. Lawrence
David Del Ponte, St. Boniface
Mindy Sorenson, St. Boniface
Dick Facette, St. Mary of the Hill
Kevin Neugent, Holy Angels
Dan Kern, St. Peter
Julie Ferstl, St. Katharine Drexel
Carolyn Weyker, St. Gabriel
Jason Schnitzler, St. Kilian
Janet Kummeth, St. Gabriel
Janet Libbey, St. Mary of the Hill
Kyle Rate, Resurrection
Mitch Ziesemer, Immaculate Conception
Lysette Brueggeman-Kopecky, St. Frances Cabrini
Dennis Proeber, Resurrection

1. Did your deanery need to discern a new APC representative? Yes _____ No X_____

2. Did you have a presentation on a specific topic? Yes X_____ No _____

Susan McNeil presented on the Synod, including the process for developing and focusing the synod priorities and how the priorities are being addressed within the Archdiocese. With her permission, I have shared her slides and presentation with the Deanery reps for them to each share with their councils.

3. **Comments or Questions from Meeting Topics Discussed:** no questions or comments

- a. Office of Catholic Social Responsibility (June 24 APC meeting)
- b. Office of Development (September 9 APC meeting)

4. **Deanery Items for the Attention of the Archbishop (successes, challenges, questions)**

- a. Items you are glad to see being addressed or feel should be brought to the attention of the archbishop (record one item for each parish): Primary discussion centered on our “homework” to the exclusion of this topic, due to time constraints.

b. Homework from the Archbishop:

- Share with your deaneries his three pastoral priorities:
 - Catholic Identity – who we are
 - Evangelization – what we do
 - Stewardship – how we do it
- Discuss what each priority means and why it is important
- Ask deanery members for examples of what their parishes are already doing to fulfill each priority, and ideas/suggestions for what they could do, either individually or collaboratively.

Identity:

- St. Mary of the Hill switched from RE classes to family faith formation to better instill Catholic Identity. Even adults without children attend the programs.
- St. Lawrence/Resurrection/St. Peter's have implemented a Live It and Learn It program to include service projects and Catholic practices, like Adoration and the Rosary.
- We Adore Him—app specific to signing up for Adoration at the Adoration Chapel (does have a fee).
- Also noted that time spent in prayer regarding specific programs/projects influences the success of stewardship.
- Flock Note

Evangelization

- Annunciation Parish is sending postcards to members who are not attending Mass, listing specific events and presentations in conjunction with the Eucharistic Revival. Another rep suggested including a line on the post card "Please drop this card in the collection to let us know you've joined us" to measure the effectiveness.
- Related to this, St. Kilian's asked if there is a standard database management system used by all parishes in the Archdiocese. Another rep strongly suggested ParishSoft. Susan referred this concern to Laura Engel.
- St. Mary of the Hill sends gift packages to college students and shut ins.
- St. Frances Cabrini is completing a new parish directory, in part to get updated contact information on all members to be better able to communicate with all members.

Stewardship:

- St. Gabriel's uses Volunteer App (others use iVolunteer, SignUp Genius) to get more people involved with specific tasks, specific donations, or specific timeframes. People are willing to do something to be involved, but don't want to join a committee/go to a meeting.
- St. Frances Cabrini is following up by phone calls to members who haven't yet given to CSA.

5. Any Other Comments**6. Future Meeting Dates, Time, and Location:****Spring 2024 Meeting –**

Date: Monday, April 22 at 6:00

Location: St. Gabriel's

Note: Deanery reports and meeting schedules should be sent to Laura Engel at engell@archmil.org before November 15, 2023.