

Reporting Session · Grouping 329

March 19, 2019, 6:30 – 8:00 pm · St. Alphonsus Social Hall
+ Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary +

In attendance: Fr. Harry Bielewicz, Fr. Zachary Galiyas, Fr. James McDonough, parishioners and office staff from each parish;
approximately 80+ present

Meeting opened by Fr. Harry at 6:30 PM with welcome to all. Opening prayer led by Pastoral Associate Sharon Serratore.

1. Website – Fr. Zach reported the website continues to be updated with news on the grouping and parishes; the site allows for new parish registrations, links to Safe Environment clearances, ministry information and contacts, and has designated Youth Group pages.
2. Liturgical Ministry training – Sharon reported that training sessions will be scheduled for particular ministry groups: Readers, EMs, Altar Servers, Ushers/Greeters/Hospitality; training is for current and new ministers; aim is for uniform practice at all churches; training sessions will be video captured and posted on our site; handbooks and written materials will be provided to enhance ministers.
3. Events/items done in common thus far - Fr. Harry reported on common, shared events among churches: Anointing Mass, All Souls Mass, single answering service, Confirmation May 5, Love Boxes to college & military, one common Parish Share letter.
4. Catechetical – Fr. Harry spoke of the goal of one common catechetical program; (does not mean having one site); for next Religious Ed year, the current locations and times will remain the same; 5 of the 6 programs meet Sundays, before or after Masses; there will be one common registration form, and one same \$30 fee; a goal is to use one common text; among 6 programs, 3 different texts are used; our 6 Faith Formation Coordinators & Fr. Harry will review and choose textbooks; approximately 670 students in our programs, along with 44 parish students in area Catholic Schools.

5. Marriage, Baptism, Youth Group – Fr. Zach continues to meet with engaged couples; a calendar is in place to prevent conflict of wedding dates and times among the 6 churches. Baptism classes are held monthly, rotating among 6 churches for convenience. 2 Youth Groups currently meet: High School Youth Group is common to all, they meet twice a month for prayer, catechesis, service, and social time, with the goal of “falling deeper in love with Jesus.”
6. Forming of Committees – Sharon reported on the ideas from the 2/23/19 Joint Council Working Session; parishioners are encouraged to pray and consider serving on one of the following: *Welcome to Our Church* Committee – each parish hosting “come and see” tours open to all; *Evangelization Team* – serving and reaching out to grow a vibrant faith community; *Volunteer Recruitment* – a mission to help identify ministries and parishioners gifted to serve.
7. Surveys for Mass times – Fr. Harry reported that the diocesan recommends distributing surveys about various elements of parish life; surveys will be available to parishioners, Finance and Pastoral Councils, and staff; the first survey will collect feedback on Saturday Vigil Mass times. Surveys on daily and Sunday Masses will follow.
8. Ecumenism - Fr. Harry shared about his membership in 3 local ecumenical groups; St. Alphonsus will host a service on March 27, Rev. Joyce Moten, First Baptist Church of McDonald to give sermon
9. On Mission! Update - Fr. Harry reported that as *On Mission* unfolds, much is fluid, and may change from initial projections; unease about limiting the number of buildings is gone, and that “a merger does not mean closure;” each grouping prayerfully discerns at the time of the merger what buildings will be used; among future considerations: a new staff, an accelerated timeline, and our parishes do not have debt.
10. Questions – a question was posed about an update on *Campaign for the Church Alive!* Fr. Harry shared that we will receive reports about the goals and expenditures; each parish followed different timelines to the campaign; “Case Statements” in each parish

designated how funds were to be used; full updates will be given; important going forward to share about each other's assets: savings, capital, inventory, etc.; all proceeds and capital remain in the parish grouping and do not go to the diocese.

11. Final comments – Referencing again fluidity, Fr. Harry shared that we will come to a process for moving forward, including timeline; important work remains to be done by Pastoral Councils & Finance Councils; further development of the website anticipated, including outreach to those without online access; a common bulletin is envisioned; upgrades still pending are the school building floor at St. Columbkille, the razing of the house at Our Lady of Lourdes property, roof repairs at St. Patrick and St. Alphonsus; individual Parish Share figures are: (OLOL \$70,654) (St. Col \$68,857) (St. Alph \$37,403) (St. Pat \$25,147) (St. Michael \$17,678) (St. Ann \$11,525)

Fr. Zach closed the meeting with prayer and blessing, approx. 7:30 PM