

Parish Partners for Catholic Education

20 September 2023

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Parish Community:

Prayers that this communication finds you, and those you love well, and strong in the Lord, Jesus Christ!

Over the past 2-3 years, first begun with (Archbishop) Nelson Perez and then continued under our current Bishop Edward Malesic, a significant number and broad spectrum of the faithful of the Diocese have met to develop a vision and strategic plan for the important ministry of Catholic Schools in our Diocese. Most likely, most all of you have, over the course of the past several months, heard about and/or read about the "Keeping the Faith" Initiative.

In the following pages of this mailing you will find the "first" (of several to come) **Newsletter** that will share how, as one of three (3) pilot groups, the parishes of Holy Family (Stow), Immaculate Heart of Mary (Cuyahoga Falls), Saint Eugene (Cuyahoga Falls), and, Our Lady of Victory (Tallmadge) as well as the Schools of Holy Family and Immaculate Heart of Mary, have come together to respond to Bishop Malesic's invitation to respond to the "Keeping the Faith" Initiative.

Additionally, the "Parish Partners for Catholic Education" (five parishes and two schools), have created a survey that we invite you to respond to.

Following the last page of this **Newsletter** you will find a **QR Code** that you can scan and that will take you directly to the survey to complete.

The five Catholic parishes in Summit County are conducting a survey to gather important information in advance of a collaborative planning process for Holy Family Catholic Church, Holy Family School, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, St. Eugene Catholic Church, and St. Joseph Catholic Church. Your answers will greatly assist us as we plan for the future growth of Catholic school education in this community. The on-line survey is preferred, if at all possible, since the software will automatically capture the responses and input them.

For those who prefer a hard copy, please, contact the Parish Center Offices to obtain one. These will have to be manually input.

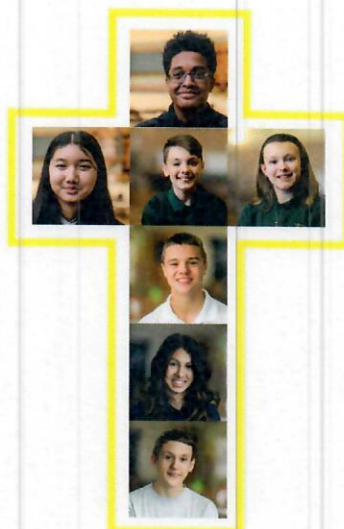
WHICHEVER FORMAT YOU CHOOSE, YOU ARE ASKED TO BE CERTAIN TO COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY NO LATER THAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023.

Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this very important initiative.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Michael A. Matusz, Pastor

Our Lady of Victory *Loving God. Loving Others. Making Disciples.*



Parish Partners for Catholic Education

Mission & Purpose

We are five partner parishes working to preserve and enhance Catholic education and formation in Summit County.

Initiated by the ***Keeping the Faith Strategic Plan*** recently introduced by the Diocese of Cleveland, Holy Family Catholic School, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, Holy Family Parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, St. Joseph Parish, St. Eugene Parish, and Our Lady of Victory Parish are planning to move forward in a collaborative strategic planning process that will allow us to create a dynamic vision for the future. The results of this process will help us best serve our students, school parents, parishioners, and the surrounding community for many years to come. Working with us will be the Institute for School and Parish Development (ISPD), a national Catholic development consulting firm headquartered in the Greater New Orleans, Louisiana Area.

An Executive Committee and a Steering Committee of school and parish leaders are guiding this planning process. With the theme of *Parish Partners for Catholic Education*, this process will focus on eight Planning Areas:

PLANNING AREAS		
	Catholic Identity	
	Academic Excellence	
	Leadership & Talent	
	Finance	
	Governance	
	Marketing/Communications	
	Enrollment Management	
	Development/Advancement	

The Planning Area Teams will have four monthly workshops between August and November 2023. Following the fourth workshop, we plan to hold a wider community event to engage additional community representatives and leaders in developing our plan for the future.

We believe that this Strategic Planning process holds great potential to strengthen our two Catholic schools and five parishes. We plan to keep everyone informed of the process as we move from month to month.

GOALS		
To build off <i>Keeping the Faith</i> Strategic Plan		
<i>To support a collaborative process that serves to unify both schools and partner parishes</i>		
<p>To understand the challenges that the two Catholic schools and five parishes face in the following domains/planning areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Domain A: Mission and Catholic Identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning Area A-1: Catholic Identity ● Domain B: Academic Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning Area B-1: Academic Excellence ● Domain C: Governance and Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning Area C-1: Leadership and Talent ● Domain D: Operational Vitality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning Area D-1: Finance ○ Planning Area D-2: Governance 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Planning Area D-3: Marketing/Communications o Planning Area D-4: Enrollment Management o Planning Area D-5: Development/Advancement 	
To create new, imaginative, innovative structures, processes, and solutions	
To build strong communication and ownership of the planning process	
To create excitement and motivation for forward movement and change	
To create a compelling and unified vision that can be implemented by Catholic leaders	
To create an actionable Collaborative Strategic Growth Plan built upon people engagement and best wisdom	

Our Catholic Faith

Over the summer, the Dicastery for Education and Culture (aka the Vatican's education office) released a letter of encouragement that includes a power metaphor:

Catholic institutions sometimes operate in the same geographic area not as soloists who let their unique vocal timbre enrich the larger chorus, but rather as divided, isolated and in some cases even dissonate voices that clash with others. It is urgent for the various institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life to sing together as a choir, and for Bishops, parish priests, and diocesan pastoral offices to sing in tune with the rich educational charisms present in schools run by Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

Steps in the Process

This collaborative strategic growth plan process began in February 2023 with the formation of the Executive Committee. Below are the steps ***Keeping the Faith*** leaders will be following:

STEPS	STEPS	PROGRESS
1	Establishment of the Executive Team	complete
2	ISPD Initial Assessment of Holy Family School and Immaculate Heart of Mary	complete
3	Education on the value of Catholic	on-going

	development/advancement and collaboration	
4	Discovery Forms from five parishes	complete
5	Establishment of the Steering Committee	complete
6	Establishment of eight Planning Areas	complete
7	Establishment of eight Planning Area Teams	complete
8	Parish survey	September 2023
9	Four Planning Area Team Workshops	August 2023-November 2023
10	Collaborative Strategic Growth Plan Convocation	December 2023
11	Creation/presentation of Strategic Growth Plan	January 2024

Executive Committee Members

- **Tracy Arnone**, Office of Catholic Education
- **Dennis Beckstrom**, Office of Catholic Education
- **Father John Betters**, Bishop's delegate
- **Father Peter Colletti**, Pastor – St. Eugene
- **Frank Donaldson**, ISPD (Institute for School and Parish Development)
- **Heather Hawk Frank**, Principal – Holy Family
- **Dennis Kowalski**, Diocesan liaison with ISPD
- **Father Michael McCandless**, Pastor – Holy Family
- **Father Michael Matusz**, Pastor – Our Lady of Victory
- **Father Jared Ornorff**, Pastor – St. Joseph
- **Bibiana Seislove**, Principal – Immaculate Heart of Mary
- **Father Jim Singler**, Pastor – Immaculate Heart of Mary
- **Joe Therber**, ISPD (Institute for School and Parish Development)

Steering Committee Members

- Jeff Andrea
- Rich Bedell
- Nancy Bird
- Krissy Bonnet
- Julie Bowling
- Valerie Carr
- Louis Ciraldo
- Veronica Dixon
- Mary Beth Glass
- Kathy Gregrich
- Jim King
- Dr. Rob Kubick
- Dan Maltempi
- Melinda McIlory
- Nicole Melchi
- Melissa Messina-Rodgers
- Amy Rich
- Alayne Schmidt
- Dan Stratton

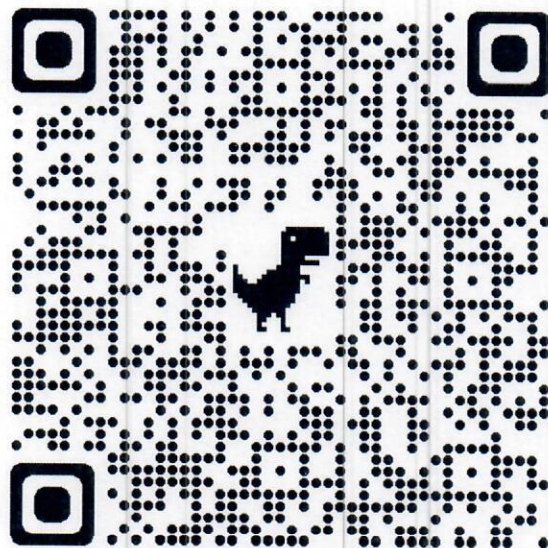
Up Next....

- Update on the planning workshops
- List of members of the eight Planning Area Teams
- The 22 challenges Planning Area Teams are solving
- Importance of Collaboration



Below, please scan the QR Code provided to access this important "Keeping the Faith" Survey for Parish Partners for Catholic Education. You are asked to complete this as soon as possible but no later than Monday, October 9, 2023. Hard copies of the Survey may be obtained from the Parish Center Offices.

The five Catholic parishes in Summit County are conducting a survey to gather important information in advance of a collaborative planning process for Holy Family Catholic Church, Holy Family School, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, St. Eugene Catholic Church, and St. Joseph Catholic Church. Your answers will greatly assist us as we plan for the future growth of Catholic school education in this community.





Parish Partners for Catholic Education

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