

We the people of St. Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church, as Christ's Body, Strive to be the heart, hands and feet of Jesus Christ

Parish Pastoral Council ("PPC") Meeting - Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Present: Fr. Mike Anderson, Sheila Bianconi, Joshua Bohl, Cheri Brausen, George Burr, Don Hohn, Robert McMullan, Amy Moore, Keith Sjostrom, Ron Peterson, Paul Siler, and Kelly Summerville

Excused: LeAnn Zogg

Opening Prayer – The meeting was opened with The Lord's Prayer.

Committee Reports:

a. Liturgy

- Easter Masses were fantastic
- Archbishop Hebda is presiding at the 10:00 am Mass this Sunday, 4/11/2021, for the year of St. Joe's
- Cantors and other volunteers who have spent time making videos so Mass can be seen online have done great work and the PPC is thankful for their contributions
- St. Joe's follows recommendations of Archdiocese when it comes to capacity numbers and wearing masks
 - We have not turned anyone away for Mass, so no need right now to open up to 100% capacity

b. Social Justice

- Budget for social justice comes out of Fund for the Poor
- Alexandria House, Loaves and Fishes, food shelf, and Stepping Stones have been very active the last month
- Last Mission Possible box has been prepared and will be shared at the next confirmation session
- We are hearing of more racism incidents in our schools and are exploring how to approach the issue in our community
- Food shipment has arrived in Guatemala
- Proposal for Angel Network (see attached social justice handout) – it is a way to connect people anonymously who are in financial or emotional need to parishioners – could be a pick-me-up like paying a bill or buying groceries or a phone call
 - Sounds similar to a program currently at St. Joe's

c. Faith Formation

- Judy Foster is resigning to take a new position at another Parish
- There is interest in continuing to involve youths in ministry
- There were a lot of adult faith formation events during Lent
 - In the future Faith Formation wants to be more coordinated with programming across days during the week

d. Pastoral Care

- Great response to St. Joseph's day of prayer on March 19
- Over 215 Easter cards distributed to homebound or senior centers
- Assisted living and nursing homes are opening up more
- Still doing funerals but not visitations or luncheons
 - St. Joe's has not wanted people to gather in Gathering Space due to concerns about spread of COVID, but people can gather in the worship space to console others as the worship space is easier to sanitize afterwards

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- Fr. Mike and funeral staff will look into changing the guidelines on funeral lunches and where families can gather in the church

e. Community Life

- Brian Sauter has agreed to be Community Life representative for the PPC and will begin attending meetings in the fall
- Summer Festival has met twice – planning summer festival for August 7 and 8
 - At very least will have grand raffle and silent auction online, but we are hoping for full in-person festival

f. Facilities

- 7 or 8 Knights deep-cleaned Great Hall kitchen on a recent Saturday morning
- A few diseased trees around Church have been taken down
- Walk-in coolers have been repaired
- Ceiling and lighting project in hallway between Great Hall and faith formation wing is next project on the list
 - It includes Room 23 where the Knights meet
 - \$16,223 is total cost for ceiling and lighting project – it includes wi-fi access
- Windows in St. Joe's Hall have been ordered to be replaced since they are cracked

g. Communications

- Discussed priorities for upcoming budget meeting, and #1 priority for upcoming budget is infrastructure since everything else is based on it
- Currently have internet speed of 0.5 megabytes, and need 2 megabytes for streaming
- Security is also priority – based on wi-fi speed
- Phone system is #3 – also based on wi-fi speed
- 2 long term projects
 - One is updating parish telephone directory
 - Another priority is parish pictorial directory
 - Would involve someone coordinating a lot of appointments
 - Interested in having an online directory as well

h. Finance

- Collections are only 1% behind budget YTD – made up a lot of the collection deficit within the last couple of months
- We have about \$70k in net surplus year to date (\$100k better than budget), largely because expenses are below budget
- Capital improvement fund is about \$80k, which is about \$25k more than where we were last year at this time
- We have not seen Easter collection numbers yet
- Budget meeting is on April 20, 2021

i. Synod

- George had a deanery meeting a few weeks ago
- 3 focus areas for the Synod – each area has about 5 sub-bullets to accomplish the focus areas – they are similar to one of our Parish goals of forming people as disciples – the focus areas are broad so parishes can fulfill them how they see best
 - 1. Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization
 - 2. Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus' love and respond to his call
 - 3. Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young

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- Judy Foster was parish leader for the Synod process – TBD who will be in charge of running Synod at St. Joe's (the Process Manager) once someone is hired for Judy's role
- There is a St. Thomas course on racism that is supposedly really good – it is called 'Becoming Human' – may be of interest to Social Justice committee
- Synod small groups may replace the Feb. 2022 Parish Mission, which would give parish opportunity to host variety show instead.
 - The 2020 variety show was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Wrap-up:

- Next Meeting: May 4, 2021 at 7 pm.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm
- Future Meetings: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Social Justice

- **This month's activity is mainly centered around the budget and we explained the difficulty of planning as it depends on what is donated to the Fund For the Poor or any fundraising we do. So we have an awareness video for the Easter masses.**
 - **Loaves and Fishes, Stepping Stones, Alexandra House and the Food Shelf have all been focused on again this month as their needs are still high.**
 - **Our last Mission Possible box was put together for our elementary students and Denise will be presenting at our Confirmation session.**
 - **We are hearing about a lot of racism incidents from our own students in the schools. We are exploring how to approach the issue in our community and make sure that we are working at everyone being welcome at the table and in the community. That we are making clear the message of the gift of life each person is.**
 - **The Food shipment arrived and is being distributed this week from Believe in the Dump in Guatemala City, in Jocotan, and in some rural communities where it is needed desperately.**
 - **We have a proposal for the Angel Network attached. A new program and a way to connect anonymously people in need with parishioners who might be able to help financially or other ways.**
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The Angel Network

Those who have the resources to help those in need of emotional and financial support will sign up with Denise Walsh and let her know how they can be an "angel" to someone in our parish, or broader community, who is in need. The need may be for assistance to pay this month's electric bill, buy groceries or pay this month's housing bill. The need may be for a pick-me-up care package for a frazzled mom or dad, or someone suffering from depression. The need may be for someone to be a phone or porch buddy providing much needed personal contact. The need may be for a prayer pal. It is likely we will be collaborating with Pastoral Care and their team to coordinate visits for those in need of prayer visits. Those who need an "angel" will contact Denise at _____ and she will contact an "angel" in the Network who will be assigned as your angel for your particular need. Anonymity is assured when desired. Angels can also donate to the Angel Network fund which will be used exclusively to help those in need of assistance.

Angel Network

- Person to person assistance – anonymous if requested
 - In parish and in the broader community
 - Multiple ways to assist
 - Dedicated account for financial donations to be used as determined appropriate by coordinator of program
 - Matching needs with donor
 - Rent/house payment
 - Utility payment
 - Food assistance
 - Clothing assistance
 - Mental health support through care packages
 - Mental health support through one-on-one contact (phone or porch buddy)
 - Emotional/spiritual support through dedicated prayer pal
 - Central clearing house coordinator (Denise Walsh)
 - Take request
 - Assess need
 - Contact parishioner(s) who have signed up to be part of the Angel Network to request specific assistance or provide assistance through dedicated account.
 - Distribute assistance
 - Maintain records for Angel Network
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The Catholic Spirit

August 13, 2020 • Newspaper of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

thecatholicspirit.com

THE CHURCH PREPARES

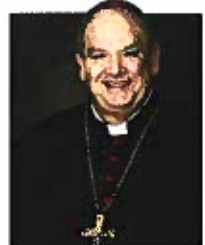
**19 Prayer and Listening Events. 11 focus events.
8,173 participants. 35,026 comments.**

Last year, Archbishop Bernard Hebda called for the archdiocese to embrace becoming a 'listening Church' in preparation for an archdiocesan Synod. From September 2019 to March 2020, thousands of Catholics shared what was on their hearts and minds when it comes to their parishes and the Church; and listened to what others had to say. Archbishop Hebda listened, too, and also tasked a team to code and analyze the information received. **After prayerful discernment and consultation, the archbishop has determined which topics deserve a deeper dive as the local Church looks to its future.**

At the beginning of May, I shared with you that I was poring over the input that had been gathered at the 2019-2020 Pre-Synod Prayer and Listening Events and through the Disciple Maker Index survey. Not surprisingly, your feedback was superb and really insightful. Thank you! I was happy to learn that so many of you share my assessment that there are many indicators of vibrancy in our archdiocese, but we could be strengthened and enriched by a Synod process that would intensively address a limited number of targeted areas.

Having reviewed your comments, I am now pleased to announce that the 2022 Archdiocesan Synod will focus on three areas: 1) Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization; 2) Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus' love and respond to his call; and 3) Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young.

For those of you who participated in the Synod prayer and listening events, the three focus areas chosen should not be surprising: We heard those three broad themes as priorities time and again. There was an awareness that we would be a stronger Church if we would focus our time and attention on these three areas in the next five years, giving us a foundation for addressing more vigorously some of the other areas of concern that surfaced at the prayer and listening events.



— Archbishop Bernard Hebda

PLEASE TURN TO FOCUS AREAS ON PAGE 2A

FOCUS AREAS

This present moment

By Archbishop Bernard Hebda

While the terminology might be contemporary, the underlying issues of our three focus areas are challenges that the Church has faced from the day of the Ascension: How are we to go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them what Christ had taught, and remembering that Christ would be with us always?

Archbishop John Ireland, who led our archdiocese from 1884 until his death in 1918, understood the fundamental importance of the great commission given by Christ to the Apostles in Matthew 28, and had the first few words inscribed in Latin above the entrance of our Cathedral to remind us always of that mission. Coming more than a century after the completion of the Cathedral, the Archdiocesan Synod is our contemporary response to that mission and challenge.

I wonder, however, if Archbishop Ireland could have imagined just how great the challenge would be in 2020. He died just before the 1918 flu pandemic began to take its toll. While it fell to him to lead a largely uneducated and immigrant Church in an era when Catholics were sometimes seen as un-American and faced significant prejudices, his experience of the Church had been primarily one of great growth, as reflected in his ability to build contemporaneously the Cathedral and Basilica, two of the most magnificent Churches in our country. Today's circumstances (an archdiocese emerging from bankruptcy and scandal, showing a decline in Mass attendance and financial support, now exacerbated by COVID-19, as well as significant reduction in the numbers of baptisms and weddings) would have been outside his wildest imagining. He would likewise be shocked, I suspect, to see the steady rise in the percentage of Americans, particularly young Americans, who indicate that they have no religious affiliation. He would surely share in our tears as we witness the ongoing effects of racism, or recognize the ways in which violence, addiction and abuse have impacted so many of our families and communities.

There is no question that we live in an age in which the need for personal conversion and institutional renewal is great. It is in moments such as these that the Church has the opportunity to return to her roots and allow the power of Christ to shine through our weakness. Because of the potential for renewal, I feel blessed to be in this archdiocese precisely at this time.

In addressing the challenges before us, I realize that I have human resources available to me that Archbishop Ireland could never have imagined. Thanks to his ground-breaking vision for our archdiocese, and the teaching of the

Focus areas: A deeper dive

Archbishop Hebda is particularly looking forward to hearing responses to the following questions.

1 Forming parishes that are at the service of evangelization.

1. Welcoming parishes

What can we do to make parishes more welcoming and accessible? Are there those who feel excluded from parish life? How can we address them? What have we learned from livestreaming parish events to build inclusion?

2. Collaboration in parish ministry

How can we promote a greater sense of ownership of parish activities? How do we call forth the gifts that God has given us to strengthen our parishes? How should parishioners be involved in setting a vision for the parish? How does a parish regularly assess its performance? How can a community provide for continuity when clergy and staff regularly change?

3. Liturgy and the Sunday experience

What needs to happen for Sunday liturgies to more completely satisfy spiritual needs and send us forth for service? How should we address the needs of multicultural, multilingual communities at Mass? Are there ways to create an Archdiocesan liturgical identity so that we feel at home in any one of our parishes? What would be important components of that identity?

4. Parishes as "central driving force" of evangelization

How do we foster the "pastoral conversion" of parishes to more fully serve the Church's evangelizing mission? How can parishes train parishioners to be evangelizers, especially in homes and neighborhoods? What are parish practices that have worked in bringing Catholics back to the Church or in attracting new members?

5. Bringing the implications of the Gospel into our communities

How can parishes be instruments of Christ's healing? How do we transform parishes to be attentive to the needs of others and to engage in the work of justice and racial equality?

2 Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus' love and respond to his call.

1. Personally encountering Jesus

What resources and experiences facilitate the personal encounter with Christ that is at the heart of missionary discipleship? What are concrete ways that our Church can credibly proclaim the core message of our faith (the "kerygma") in ways that lead to real conversion?

Second Vatican Council that confirmed his instincts, we have extraordinarily creative lay leadership in this local Church. There's a remarkable foundation of collaboration between clergy and laity that gives me great hope.

Think of the now national impact that the Jeremiah Program has had on young moms and their children, or the hope provided to families in search of affordable housing in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa because of CommonBond Communities. Take a moment to imagine the number of teenagers around our country who have had their faith renewed because of NET Ministries, or university students who have encountered Christ on college campuses because of Saint Paul's Outreach. I'm the envy of my brother bishops when I speak about the Catechetical Institute or pull out photos of the new Dorothy Day Place, or talk about the impact that the Aim

2. Tools to foster discipleship

How can we offer meaningful life-long formation for discipleship? What are useful resources and experiences for learning how to pray, especially with sacred Scripture? What retreat experiences have borne fruit? How can we encourage faith-sharing in small groups? How can we encourage mentoring in the life of virtue and accompaniment at difficult moments?

3. Enhancing adult formation

How can we promote a deepening in our understanding of the content of our faith? How can we more effectively meet the need for adult faith formation?

4. Fostering the universal call to holiness

How do we deepen our understanding of the family as the domestic Church and our appreciation of marriage as a path for lifelong sanctification? How can the Church better accompany couples in living out their vocation throughout their marriage? How can we be more responsive to the spiritual needs of those who are single, separated or divorced, or widowed?

5. Joyful service as a Gospel imperative

How do we strengthen the tie between discipleship, love for neighbor and joyful service? How can we encourage individuals to manifest their faith in their works? How can we promote a greater sensitivity and response to the needs of others?

3 Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young.

1. Supporting parents as primary educators

How can we better assist parents in forming children as disciples who know and love Jesus and his Church?

2. Helping the young encounter Jesus

How do we give pre-teens a personal encounter with Jesus that fosters spiritual growth? How about teenagers? How should we teach them to pray or help them grow in virtue?

3. Education at the service of encountering Christ

How can Catholic schools and religious education programs more effectively facilitate a relationship with Jesus? Do our sacramental preparation programs open young hearts to God's grace and call?

4. Ministry to millennials

How can we minister more effectively to college-age Catholics and single young adults? How about young married couples and young families?

5. Rethinking structures of young adult ministry

What should be the role of peer ministry and young adult leadership in this apostolate? Is there a need for a more regionalized approach? What are avenues for developing young leadership and opening Church structures to the insights of young adults? How can we better use social media to nourish young adults?

about what might emerge from the next steps of the Synod process. The focus areas might seem somewhat predictable, but I am anticipating bold proposals for concrete action. My hope is that through the Synod process we will together be able to discern new and creative responses to a few issues that have challenged, and continue to challenge, this local Church. Even in an era marked by COVID-19 and limited financial resources, the potential is boundless when we all put our heads and hearts together and allow the Holy Spirit to lead.

While the first phase of our process was focused on casting the net broadly to see what was on the minds and hearts of the faithful and thereby determine the topics for our Synod, the next phase needs to be more focused and go deeper. In particular, the 2021 deanery and parish consultations will focus on how we can take action to address those topics. At the deanery level next January **3A>>**



YEAR TWO: THE CHURCH PREPARES

JUNE
Mass marks the beginning of Year 2

AUGUST
Archbishop Hebda announces Synod focus areas

SEPTEMBER
Praying with Scripture virtual series begins Sept. 13

OCTOBER
Healing and Hope virtual retreat begins Oct. 18

JANUARY/FEBRUARY
Faith and Culture series
Deanery Consultation occurs over four Saturdays in social-distanced environment

FEBRUARY
Lent: Synod at Home

SPRING
Live events on the Focus Areas

JUNE
Year 3 begins



YEAR THREE: THE CHURCH ENGAGES

SEPTEMBER
Parish Consultation with Small Group Process begins

JUNE
Synod Assembly takes place Pentecost weekend

NOVEMBER
Archbishop Hebda releases pastoral plan



Small Group Meeting & Materials

(1 of 2)

1. Small group materials will be provided and explained at Aug./Sept. trainings, including the process for giving feedback.
2. Materials include a 2-hour video starting with lectio prayer, and with significant and multiple built-in times for discussion.
3. When small groups meet, participants will stay at their tables for the entire 2 hours.
4. There is no pre-work or home-work for participants.
5. As you plan for space, consider the need for video screens.
 - Example: Parish hosts small groups in a large meeting room with 1 screen that is visible to all. Or small groups meet in individual rooms and the parish or facilitator provides a computer screen for viewing.



Small Group Materials

(2 of 2)

1. Small groups discussions will be based on the three focus areas (and subtopics) announced by Archbishop Hebda in his August 13, 2020 *Catholic Spirit* article
2. Small group materials will go through pilot testing and will be revised based on feedback. The general structure is as follows:
 - 1st week: Introduction and foundational topics.
 - 2nd & 3rd weeks: Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus' love and respond to his call.
 - 4th & 5th weeks: Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization.
 - 6th week: Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young.



GOING FORWARD SYNOD TIMELINE & ACTION ITEMS FOR PASTORS

February 22, 2021

Actions in Early 2021 to Prepare for Year 3 of the Synod (2021-2022)

- Now** Fall Parish Calendar – Reserve 6 weeks between Sept. 19 and Nov. 14, 2021 on your Adult Faith Formation calendar (exclusively) for Synod small groups
- Sacramental preparations should continue without interruption.
 - Avoid other adult faith formation opportunities during this time frame to encourage Synod small group participation.
- Now** Parish Ambassadors - If not already done, appoint your ambassador team
- Email names and email addresses to ambassadors@archspm.org.
- By Mar. 12** Parish Small Group Process Managers – Confirm prior appointment or appoint 2 people to manage the small group process at your parish
- 1 parish staff person (DRE/faith formation) and 1 ambassador recommended.
 - Boiler plate invitation and job description provided (sent by email).
 - Email names and email addresses to ambassadors@archspm.org.
 - Weekly virtual/Zoom trainings offered in the afternoon and evening every week Thursday Feb. 18 – May 27, except Holy Week. (Need only attend 1 training.) Ambassadors and other parish staff also welcome. Pastors invited but not expected to attend.
- By May 31** Parish Small Group Facilitators & Scribes - Invite parishioners with requisite skills to be facilitators and scribes of parish small groups
- Your ambassador team can be facilitators and scribes, and can help you recruit others, as well as help with implementation of the small groups.
 - Email facilitator and scribe names and email addresses to ambassadors@archspm.org.
 - Boiler plate invitation and job description provided (will be sent by email).
 - For planning purposes, estimate the number of small groups by (i) estimating the number of parishioners involved, and (ii) divide by 8, assuming 8 people in each small group.
 - Virtual and/or live trainings held for small group process managers, facilitators, scribes, and ambassadors in late August/early September 2021. Parish staff also welcome. Pastors invited but not expected to attend.
- By May 31** Deanery Consultation Reps – If not already done, appoint 10 parishioners to represent your parish in the Deanery Consultation Process
- Deanery consultation held 1 Saturday in late January or February 2022 (dates on page 2).
 - Representatives must have participated in the Parish Consultation small groups and will need to be able to devote sufficient time to pray and prepare for the Deanery process.
 - Consider selecting from your parish ambassador team.
 - Boilerplate invitation and job description provided (will be sent by email).
 - Email names and email addresses to ambassadors@archspm.org.
- By May 31** Synod Assembly Reps - From your 10 Deanery representatives, nominate 2 parish representatives and 1 alternate representative to serve as Archdiocesan Synod Assembly Members
- Email names and email addresses to ambassadors@archspm.org

Year 3 Consultations & Synod Assembly (2021–2022)

Fall 2021 **Shepherd your Parish Consultation Process with small groups (6 sessions)**

- Relying upon your trained team (small group process managers, facilitators, scribes, ambassadors, and any staff), shepherd your parish small group process.
- Small group process should be completed by Sunday, November 7, 2021.

Jan./Feb. 2022 **Participate in Deanery Consultation Process**

- Pastor and 10 parish reps participate in an in-person Saturday event from 9:30am - 3:30pm (with a preparatory meeting soon before).
- January 29: Deaneries 6, 7 & 8 All Saints Church, Lakeville
- February 5: Deaneries 9, 10, 11 & 15 Benilde-St. Margaret High School, St. Louis Park
- February 12: Deaneries 2, 3, 13 & 14 Cretin-Derham Hall High School, St. Paul
- February 19: Deaneries 1, 4, 5 & 12 St. John the Baptist Church, New Brighton
- February 26: Bad weather make-up Same sites as above, except that Feb 12 back-up location is St. John the Baptist, New Brighton

Spring 2022 **Synod Assembly Members Prepare for the Synod**

- This will include prayer and training events.

June 3-5, 2022 **Archdiocesan Synod Assembly**

- Held at Cretin-Derham Hall High School, St. Paul.
- Estimated 500 Members: 2 from each parish participate in a three-day event (with preparatory meetings before).
- Note that not all pastors will attend. The Instruction on Diocesan Synods prescribes who attends.

Support and Pray for the Synod

- **Spring Formation Day – June 10, 2021**
 - Encourage your parish staff to participate in the Spring Formation Day, which will focus on the Synod and the parish consultation process and materials.
- **Year 2 Synod resources at archspm.org/synod (virtual, no cost, permanent/use at your convenience)**
 - Praying with Scripture series
 - Healing and Hope retreat
 - Faith & Culture series
 - Synod at Home series
- **Flocknote communications to various teams:**
 - Parish ambassadors
 - Small group process managers
 - Deanery representatives
 - Synod members
- **Archdiocesan Synod website resources:**
 - archspm.org/synod: Synod Overview, Prayer intentions, Year 2 offerings.
 - archspm.org/synodpromo: Promotional materials (bulletin, pulpit announcements).
 - archspm.org/synodsmallgroups: Guide and downloadable documents for parish small groups.