

Journey of Faith Pastoral Planning
St. Bernard Town Hall Meeting
January 3, 2023
7 pm St. Bernard Cafeteria

AGENDA

1. Opening prayer (Journey of Faith Prayer)

2. Introductions (Rose)

- Fr. Michael Gadache Ahmadu
 - Serving as Family F Convener (helps facilitate planning meetings)
 - Currently Chaplain for OLA and Associate Pastor at St. Pius X
 - Future Pastor at St. Bernard (July 2023)
- Pastoral Planning Representatives for St. Bernard:
 - Fr. Dan, Pastor
 - Jill Rivers
 - Deacon Paul Dreismeier
 - Deacon Tim McNeil
 - Deacon Chuck Sheik
 - Rose Flores, Business Manager/Development Director, etc.
 - Emily Finley, School Principal
 - Recently added members:
 - Margaret Nicolini
 - Dick Mausbach

3. Summary of Journey of Faith process/timeline/status (Rose—hand-out)

4. Archbishop's response (hand-out)

5. Your input desired to prepare for strategic discussions (Margaret)

- In light of our parish's mission to make Christ present in all we say and do, how can we be the welcoming parish that we're known to be, to the African communities, while determining how all three groups can be represented when developing the blended model?
- What things should be considered as we develop the vision for a complete blending into one community?
- Clear path for discipleship suggestions due in January.
 - What should we do to invite former parishioners to return to Mass and invite others to join the parish?
 - How should we help disciples grow in their relationship with God and prepare them for mission?
 - How to have greater invitation to/participation of school families in parish life?

6. Closing prayer (Fr. Dan)

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Hand-out #1: Summary of Journey of Faith process/timeline/status

1. Purpose/Approach:

- Response to trends in Church participation, demographic shifts, and priest shortage
- Archdiocesan-wide, mission-driven pastoral planning process
- Family of Parishes approach: collaboration and sharing of resources
- St. Bernard (including the two African Mass communities) is part of Family F with St. Pius X and St. Leo parishes

2. Timeline/Status:

- November: Submitted Family of Parishes Plan to Archbishop for Approval
- December: Received Archbishop's response/recommendations
- January:
 - St. Bernard Town Hall Meeting to review Archbishop's recommendations
 - Parishioners provide input to Pastoral Planning Team
 - Articulate what our clear path for discipleship looks like. Pastors meet with assigned Parish Support Team coach(es) and Pastoral Planning Core Team by January 31, 2023, to agree upon details and timeline.
 - Fr. Dan will schedule a strategy session with Father Hastings that will take place sometime during Lent. "The purpose will be to develop a plan for the complete blending of Our Lady of Africa, St. Michael the Archangel and St. Bernard communities into one."
- February-April: Fr. Dan, Fr. Gadache, and up to 10 leaders from each of the 3 communities will meet with Fr. Hastings
- January-June: Transition Phase
- July: Implementation begins

Archbishop's Response: Family Pastoral Planning Proposal

Family & Convener: Urban Family F/Fr. Gadache

Date: 6 December 2022

Archbishop Response

Tentative Approval

Tentative Approval with Specified Changes: All 3 parishes must clearly articulate what their clear path for discipleship looks like. Pastors are to meet with assigned Parish Support Team coach(es) and Pastoral Planning Core Team by January 31, 2023, to agree upon details and timeline. While many positive activities/attitudes are listed in the response, parishes continue to decline in active participation. Something new must be imagined.

By January 31, 2023, the St. Bernard pastor will schedule a strategy session with Father Hastings that will take place sometime during Lent. The purpose will be to develop a plan for the complete blending of Our Lady of Africa, St. Michael the Archangel and St. Bernard communities into one. This will encompass all aspects of parish life, including moving to one set of books for finances and for sacramental records. Meeting participants will be Father Hastings, the pastor and up to 10 leaders from each of the 3 communities.

Recommended: Given the large investment in Catholic schools, parishes should plan how to maximize the investment for greater invitation to/participation of school families in parish life. Parishes should consider a shared tuition model, common salary and benefits for the schools, to attract and retain qualified staff, and possibly a common school corporation with board of limited jurisdiction. In addition, parishes are invited to make specific decisions about how they will collaborate to enrich shared Adult Formation.

More Discussion Needed

Additional Comments:

From: "Phil J. LaSala" <pjlasala@archomaha.org>

Date: December 13, 2022 at 1:44:27 PM CST

To: "Rev. Michael Gadache" <mgadache@archomaha.org>

Cc: "Andrew J. Dejka" <ajdejka@archomaha.org>, "Jen K. Moser" <jkmoser@archomaha.org>

Subject: Archbishop's Tentative Decision on Urban Family F Planning Proposal

Dear Father Gadache: The archbishop's tentative decision on your family of parishes planning proposal is attached, and he'll provide his final decision in February after the information sharing period concludes. His central message about Catholic schools reflects his desire for you and the leadership of your family to do everything you can to integrate your schools and school families into parish life for the sake of radiating the Gospel.

Thanks so much for the hard work you and your team have put into this proposal. These are vibrant parishes with clear charisms, and in the case of St. Pius/St. Leo, it's great how you are building on years of ongoing collaboration re: their shared Catholic school and Youth Ministry. Thanks for making hard choices to reduce Sunday obligation Mass offerings from 4 down to 3 at St. Pius and eliminate a favored 10 am Mass at St. Bernard. Also, good job proposing a plan for clergy fraternity.

Next steps are developing a clear path for each of your parishes and building community at St. Bernard. Please know that your coaches and I are available to answer any questions you might have, and we will do everything we can to accompany you and your flock on this Journey of Faith. Thanks again!

Peace,
Phil