

LAKE HURON CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

COMMUNICATION # 5

July 26, 2020

Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work together for the good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

As brothers and sisters of the Lake Huron Catholic Family of Parishes, God has called us to work together to build up his church here on earth and form disciples of Jesus. Therefore, it is with great joy that we received news from Bishop Fabbro this week that the remaining seven Families of Parishes (which includes the Lake Huron Catholic Family of Parishes) will be activated on September 1st. The Pastors, Pastoral and Administrative teams and the Transition Teams have been working since January to prepare for the activation of these Families of Parishes. You can see the full list of active and pending Families of Parishes at <https://dol.ca/list-of-fops>.

In our previous update, we mentioned that our Transition Team was asked to create a Pastoral Plan for the first six months. Here are the five goals of the Pastoral Plan for the Lake Huron Catholic Family of Parishes:

Goal 1 Acquire an updated list of parishioners in our Family of Parishes.

The recent pandemic has required us to rely on the parish website and email in order to communicate with our parishioners and share information. However, many parishes found it difficult to communicate since we had few emails and many old phone numbers. Therefore, if you are new to our parishes, have changed your phone number or have an email address, please send an email to the parish office so we might update our files.

Goal 2 Establish one website for the Family of Parishes.

Pat Weber (Goderich), a member of our Transition Team, has contacted Loretta Ayotte (OLMC) and Michelle Peters (Grand Bend) in an effort to research and recommend a host and platform for our new website.

Goal 3 Form a Liturgy Committee.

Music is a key component of our liturgy. Therefore, Christa Ducharme (Zurich), a member of our Transition Team, volunteered to organize a Zoom meeting with musicians from each parish. Although we are unable to sing during this pandemic, this is a good opportunity to review the mass settings and music resources each parish is using and if possible, make efforts to consolidate our music selections. On a related note, I am told that there are many talented musicians in the Lake Huron area. If you play an instrument and would like share your musical talents or sing in one of our choirs, please contact Christa Ducharme to join one of our local church choirs.

Goal 4 Form a Social Justice Committee.

I was pleased to hear there was a desire to form a Social Justice Committee. Ann Sutton (Grand Bend), a member of our Transition Team, volunteered to find representation from each of the six parishes. If you are interested helping with this newly formed Social Justice Committee, please contact Ann at annsutton@hay.net

Goal 5 Hire new staff for the Family of Parishes

You might be surprised to learn that a pastor will spend almost 70% of his time with administrative duties. That leaves the pastor with only 30% of his time to do what he was ordained to do which is to celebrate sacraments, prepare homilies and lead staff and volunteers. As we begin this Family of Parishes, it is my hope to spend more time celebrating sacraments, preparing great homilies and leading our staff and volunteers. Therefore, we made a commitment to hire a Business Manager and a Pastoral Worker/Minister. I am please to announce that Jim Van Lanen has accepted the position of Business Manager and Lisa Maselli has accepted the position of Pastoral Worker for our Family of Parishes. I am looking forward to working with Jim and Lisa and I hope that you will support and pray for these new members of the leadership team.

Finally, we must always remember that the most important aspect of parish transformation is prayer. As a result, I was moved by the Holy Spirit to initiate an Intercessory Prayer Team for our new Family of Parishes. We will not be successful in forming this new Family of Parishes without the assistance and creative power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, I have asked Monique Hartman (Zurich) to assist me in forming a prayer team that will pray that hearts will become open to renewal and that all parishioners will embrace new approaches to parish life. Please contact Monique

Hartman at mrsh0618@icloud.com or Fr. Tony Laforet at tlaforet@dol.ca if you feel called to serve our Family of Parishes in this powerful effort.

The Transition Team is searching for a logo and a letterhead for the Lake Huron Catholic Family of Parishes. If you have any ideas please submit them to myself at tlaforet@dol.ca or to any members of or Transition Team. We will be meeting on **Wednesday, August 12th** at 7 pm to discuss and choose from these suggestions.

“Fortify the men and women that have been given oversight of this community. Provide them with discerning hearts and the ability to make courageous decisions.” *(Taken from the Prayer for our Family of Parishes)*