

Our Lady of Victory
Pastoral Council Agenda

May 28, 2019 – 7:00 PM – Gathering Space Meeting Room

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer (2 min)
- II. Roll Call and Introductions (3 min)
- III. Approve Agenda (2 min)
- IV. Review of last Meetings Minutes: April 23, 2019 (4 min)
- V. Reading of the Mission Statement and Vision Statements (1 min)
- VI. Old Business
- A.
- VII. New Business
- A. New Members of the Council – Amanda Clarke, Brian Rappel, Shawn Atwater, Denny Prior
- VIII. Ministry Reports
- A. Social Action (4 min)
 - i. Christian Services & Social Action
 - ii. Ecumenical – Open
- B. Church Life (8 min)
 - i. Church Life
 - ii. Stewardship
 - iii. Ladies Council
 - iv. Wellness
- C. Faith Formation (6 min)
 - i. Faith Formation / RCIA – Report Only
 - ii. JFK / Board of Education
 - iii. Youth Ministry/Young Adults – Report Only
- D. Family Life/Knight of Columbus (4 min)
- E. Finance and Administration (2 min)
- F. Liturgy (2 min)
- IX. Standing Committee Reports:
 - A. Odd Jobs (2 min)
 - B. Vocations (4 min)
- X. Reminder of Board of Education: Ralph – June
- XI. Parishioners Comments: (5 min)
- XII. Pastor's Comments: (5 min)
- XIII. Next meeting June 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Gathering Space Meeting Room
- XIV. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Parish Mission Statement: Our Lady of Victory is a Community that lives and shares the Preaching, Teaching and Healing of Christ

Our Vision: To become the most vibrant and welcoming faith community in the Diocese

Our Lady of Victory Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2019

1. Chad Lochner opened the meeting at 7:00 with a prayer. Roll call was taken. Those in attendance are noted below.

Status	Name	Ministry/Committee Assignment
X	Fr. Jake Greiner	Pastor
X	Amanda Clarke	TBD
X	Ralph Armstrong	Stewardship
X	Al Boboth	Ex-officio (Deacon)
X	Helen White	Ladies Council
X	Nancy Stone	Christian Services, Stewardship, Social Action
X	Chuck Gerlach	Odd Jobs, Stewardship
	Matt Henning	Stewardship, Odd Jobs, AHS
X	Judy Johnson	Ex-officio (Lay Director)
	Bernie Mack	Ex-officio (Lay Director)
X	Chad Lochner	President
X	David Mattke	Ex-officio (Parish Business Manager)
	Marc Mosse	Ex-officio (Deacon)
X	Shawn Atwater	TBD
X	Vern Vondera	Family Life, Knights of Columbus
X	Mike VanSpeybroeck	Church Life
X	Chad Steimle	Ex-officio (JFK Principal)
X	Stephen Frank	Secretary
	John Wagner	Ex-officio (Deacon)
	John Wichelmann	Vice-President
	Suzanne Yackley	Liturgy
X	Jennifer Stratman	Wellness
		Board of Education Representative
	Frank Agnoli	Ex-officio (Deacon)
X	Denny Prior	TBD

(X = Present)

2. The agenda was approved as amended to include the following:
- Election of officers in June
 - Youth Ministry Trivia Night fundraiser.
3. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as submitted without any revisions.

4. The mission and vision statements were read.
5. Old Business – No old business this month.
6. New Business
 - Nominations of officers is slated for next month. Steve was nominated for president.
 - Welcome to four new members: Amanda Clarke, Shawn Atwater, Denny Prior, and Brian Rappel. There will be an orientation for these members at 6:00pm before next month's Board meeting. Each member will also be given an information packet.
 - Evan Brankin, the parish Youth Ministry Director, discussed the research findings of the high school and college students. Some discussion followed and it was agreed that further action would be pursued. Evan asked for Board approval for a Youth Ministry Trivia Night on 10/19 at the Columbus Club. This request was approved, as was the possibility of recurring Trivia Nights.
7. Ministry Reports.
 - Social Action – Report attached.
 - Ecumenical – No report.
 - Church Life
 - Church Life. Report attached. Mike VanSpeybroeck noted he will be getting ready for the parish picnic. More to come on that.
 - Stewardship. Report attached. Judy Johnson reported that a parish fair will be held the weekend of October 19 & 20. All ministries and committees are encouraged to have a booth outlining what they're about and to answer questions.
 - Ladies Council. Helen White reported the following:
 - A Newcomer Event will be held at 6:30 on May 30. This will be held every fall and spring.
 - The rummage sale is scheduled for June 8. Set-up/take-down help is again requested. She requested that the gym-floor tarp be left in place following JFK commencement activities. Thanks to Lisa Willows for advertising help.
 - Cleaning of storage room will take place this Saturday after the 8:00 am mass.

- Wellness. Report attached. Jennifer Stratman reported that the used book sale will be June 1 – 2.
- Faith Formation
 - Faith Formation / RCIA – Report attached.
 - JFK/Board of Education – See report attached.
- Youth Ministry/Young Adults – Report attached.
 - Family Life/Knights of Columbus Report attached.
- Finance & Administration. Judy Johnson stated that the finance committee meeting was postponed until May 29 due to the Memorial Day holiday, therefore there is nothing to report.
- Liturgy
 - No report this month.

8. Standing Committee Reports

- Odd Jobs. Chuck Gerlach reported that 12 loads of timber were sent to the recycling center from the property south of the parking lot. Further work in the area is pending the area drying out.
- Vocations – Report attached. Deacon Al said there is ordination on Saturday, June 1 and requested that we continue to pray for seminarians.

9. Parish Council representation at the monthly Board of Education meeting is as follows:

- June - Ralph Armstrong

As a reminder, the Board of Education meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30.

10. Parishioners Comments.

- The next food bank distribution will be July 6. 50 people were on hand in the rain for the last food bank in early May. Concern for the safety of all was expressed due to the severe weather in the area.

- The latest parish directory was described as “uninspiring”. No photos of parish or education councils, etc.
- Kudos to the choir for their participation at the 4:30 pm mass on May 18, and a thumbs up to Dale Fischer for cantoring.

11. Pastor’s Comments - Father Jake reported the following:

- 8th-grade graduation is June 7 at 6:30pm. Council members are welcome to come congratulate the graduates and wish them well.
- The Scott County Catholic Schools Strategic Plan Draft meeting will be held June 18 at 6:30pm in the parish center. All council members are encouraged to attend if their schedule allows.
- Fr. Jake will be on a “personal retreat” from June 9 – 14 and will be on vacation July 14-26.
- The parish is unveiling an on-line ministry scheduling program with the goal to handle 400 volunteers. This program will be used to schedule lectors, cantors, hospitality ministers, etc. More to come.
- Some small projects to include re-striping the parking lot and repairing sidewalks and steps will be on-going this summer.
- The parish website will be updated to include videos.
- \$5,500 was raised by the parish during last Sunday’s second collection. Thanks to all! Possible additional funding will be coming from the Knights of Columbus. The parish flood relief efforts will be lead by a parishioner dedicated to the effort.
- 40-50 college students are tentatively schedule to be staying at OLV/JFK from June 25-28 and July 14-18 to provide flood relief assistance.

12. The next meeting is 6/25/19 at 7:00.

13. The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Frank
Secretary

Fwd: Metting minutes from Christian Service meeting May 24th

Nancy Stone <nancjstone52@gmail.com>

Tue 5/28/2019 12:39 PM

To: Steve Frank <cyclonesteve@hotmail.com>

I just received this from Christian Service.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <mommcgoo@mchsi.com>

Date: Tue, May 28, 2019 at 12:37 PM

Subject: Metting minutes from Christian Service meeting May 24th

To: Brus, Tom <lotsapork@yahoo.com>, Fr. Dan <doraud@diodav.org>, Friederich, Susan <sfried2@hotmail.com>, HonoreJohnston <honoremike@aol.com>, Houlihan, Terry <houli.t@gmail.com>, JaneBrockman <Janebroc@aol.com>, KarenNagy <karen@ancient.org>, King, Jan <kingrjking@aol.com>, LindaMcCarthy <lindamccarthy@q.com>, Schebler, Helene <helen386@mchsi.com>, Steinkopf, Kathy <ksteinkopf13@gmail.com>, barb rohlf <brohlf@me.com>, betsykuennen <betsyk52@hotmail.com>, bkoppes26 <bkoppes26@aol.com>, decock, Karon <karondecock@yahoo.com>, jillgustas <jillgustas@hotmail.com>, joeripslinger <joeripslinger@gmail.com>, kilburg1 <kilburg1@q.com>, mommcgoo <mommcgoo@mchsi.com>, nancjstone52 <nancjstone52@gmail.com>, connie c <creensing1@yahoo.com>, Martha & John Smith <s9995@mchsi.com>, Jackie Trees <walcotttrees@aol.com>, Fr Jake Greiner <greinerj@diodav.org>

Good afternoon, dear Friends in Faith,

Karon announced that Chuck is in full remission from his cancer. A true miracle, because the Doctor said that would not happen. Praise God!

Several items were discussed. We talked a bit about KIVA and how to bring it to the congregation. Our loans have all been paid back and Fr. Jake will reapply our money. We talked about asking Fr. Dan to come and give a presentation to the congregation, wondered if we could do anonymous donations if we did a group project, wondered if someone from our group or Fr. Jake could talk about it at Mass and if we would ask for a volunteer from our congregation to manage the fund if we got a group from church to donate. Will revisit this in the fall.

Linda, Betsy and Char will meet at 10am Thursday morning to take the flood items to the center at the old Office Max. We are still collecting for a couple more weeks but want to get these items out, the big tub is pretty full. Hopefully, we will hit it between rain showers!

F,F,F June 9th with Wellness. Jamie Long-WHO HAS A SEVERE NUT ALLERGY-NO NUTS IN ANYTHING YOU BRING-is speaking from Goldercare. Workers available are Karon, Karen K.

Betsy, Char and Connie. Menu: we decided on sloppy joes, salads and Wellness will bring angel food cakes and fruit for dessert. Char will bring coffee and lemonade and will be in the parish Center at 1030 am if you want to drop items off and come to help setup.

Turkey joes-Char sloppy joes-Karen N.

Potato Salad-Honore

Slider buns-Linda

Vegetable salad-Betsy

Veggie tray-Karon

Pickles and mustard-Karen K

Cole Slaw-Martha

Chips- Sandy

STILL NEED A COUPLE MORE BAGS OF CHIPS AND ANOTHER SALAD IF ANYONE NOT THERE COULD SIGN UP FOR THOSE ITEMS.

We will be hosting another F,F,F, August 4th. Senior Star will be presenting from your home to your final home and bring their Drums of life and also provide lunch. We are going to suggest salads and sandwiches from Panera. Cara Joiner will be presenting. Workers for that are Char, Linda, Betsy and Karon. We should only have to do dishes. I will put announcements in the bulletin starting in July.

Karen K. is toying with two different themes for next Adults with Disabilities. It will be Leap year and it is on February 29th, 2020. Love Everyone Always Pray or LEAP into something New. Mark your calendars.

Please keep the sick of our parish in your prayers, our farmers, those struggling with mental or physical poor health and prayers of thanksgiving for the healing that God had done in our parish. May we bless them with our prayers, today and always,
Char

Social Action Minutes
5-21-19

Evan Brankin attended to let us know what he does with the Youth Ministry.

- go to Catholic Worker House 2nd Tuesday monthly
- adults, and maybe students; serve meals and eat with the men
- Summer Mission Work; household construction work at Catholic Worker;
- Rebuild QC; remodeled home
- Goods Drives, fasting, prayers, and alms

- Confirmation; Chase the Chills for homeless; Letters for first responders; dog treats for the animal shelter; Riverbend Food Bank

- Diocese; Stepping Out to Serve; Projects between Memorial Day and Labor Day

Evan requested that Social Action run point on getting OLV parishioners involved in the flood assistance centers;

- Contact has been made with Gail Lundeen from Scott County Emergency Management; there has not been a lot of traffic because many people are still flooded; as of May 24 the center will close. If more donations and volunteers are needed she will contact Nancy Stone

A very lengthy discussion about the next steps for Social Action ensued. The parishioners need to be educated about Catholic Social Teachings (CST) and the Two Feet of Social Justice. The Social Action commission at OLV is more advocacy than charity. Discussion was held about bringing ministry leaders in to educate them about CST and Two Feet. Speakers are going to be brought in within the next few months to educate the parish about poverty, causes of poverty, homelessness; racism, oppression, the vulnerable, etc. Book discussions are going to start within the next few months. The books will cover racism, spirituality, poverty, and other topics. Many of the books will come from the Network Lobby, Nuns on a Bus, suggestions, Sr Joan Chitterson, various books written by Jesuit priests.

April-May 2019 Church Life

Confirmation was held April 13, 2019, Mass at 1:30pm with Bishop Zinkula.

The parish welcomed the following 8th grade students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation as full members of the church: Alison A., Kyle B., Alison B., Kristen B., Stephanie C., Adriana C., Mary D., Kyla D., Joseph D., Griffin E., Delaney E., Noé F., Cameron F., Lindsey G., Hunter M., Grace H., Grant H., Emma J., Isabella K., David L., Michael L., Michael M., Keaton M., Alexander M., Mason M., Sophia M., Brianna M., Brittany N., Natalie P., Michael R., Elizabeth R., Mary R., Ava S., Anna S., Marin S., Helen S., Owen S., Michael V., Gabriel W., Tyler W., Emily W.

Our Lady of Victory also embarked on a process of re-visioning our Confirmation preparation ministry in 2018-19. Teachers, catechists, administrators, parents, and teens have all been taking part in this discernment over the last 8 months. What's come out of the process so far, being prepared for Confirmation isn't about being able to pass a test, or just have knowledge about the Faith. It's about the relationship with God that our candidates for Confirmation possess.

We also celebrated First Communion at a special 1:30pm mass on Sunday April 28 for the following young members of our church: Joseph A., Alayna A., Waylon A, Sloan C., Camilla C., Anthony C., Caitlyn C., Derek C., Dylan C., Bryton D., Kaitlyn E., Howard E., Faithlyn F., Karleigh F., Sophie F., Sullivan G., Miranda G., Griffin G., Presley H., Ethan K., Kamille L., Grant M., Lincoln M., Ellamae M., Darian M., Mason N., Sophia N., Cooper P., Kellen P., Sylvia R., Isaac R., Mariska R., Luke R., Zander S., Evelyn S, Mason S., Jackson T., McKenna T, Ellie V., Kolton W. ,Ashlyn Y.

Fr. Jake posted the following updates in the May bulletins:

Kwik Trip, Inc., which owns the Kwik Star gas station south of our property, decided to donate two additional lots of land to our parish. Therefore, our property now includes Lots 21 and 22 of Victory Acres (Parcel Nos. 1506-14 and 1506-15), which means that we now have a straight southern property line from Division Street over to Sturdevant Street.

The Meitler Group, a consulting firm, hired by the Assumption Foundation to help with a study that would look at how we are currently providing Catholic education in Scott County continues. This same study would also provide suggestions on how we can move forward in providing an outstanding Catholic education through the four elementary schools and one high school that serve students in Scott County. The finding of this study will be presented to the JFK faculty and staff along with leadership groups of the parish in the next few weeks as representatives of the committee that assisted the Meitler group go to each parish in our deanery.

Our Lady of Victory is registered for the June Vision 20/20 event, preparing for this meeting in the coming month. Vision 20/20 initiative wants to make sure that every parish is truly doing everything possible to evangelize and support our fellow Catholics and those who might want to join the Catholic faith.

We had four positions open in both the Board of Education and Parish Council, and eight parishioners have stepped forward to fill these positions. Since we have just enough to fill the vacant positions,

there is no need for an election. First/Second Term Members to the Board of Education: Ann Craig (First Term) Chad Hagerman (First Term) Lucas Roth (Second Term) Lisa Snider (Second Term). New Members to the Parish Council: Shawn Atwater Amanda Clarke Denny Prior Brian Rappel

Additional happenings, retreats, programs and announcements in late April and May 2019: Kathy Peterson and volunteers gathered to compile College Care packages the Monday after Easter; GriefShare activities; Blessing Bag from Christian Service ministry, a program in support of the homeless in our area; the 2nd Annual Plant Sale; The Cinco De Mayo Gala was held on May 3, 2019 at the Goldenleaf Banquet Center; brunch on Mother's Day Sunday in the OLV cafeteria put on by the OLV Knights of Columbus. Funds raised from the brunch to help our youth attend the next National Catholic Youth Conference.

Upcoming events: Roar VBS (Vacation Bible School), kids discover that even though life gets wild, God is good. VBS to be held July 22-26.; Wellness Committee Book Sale The Wellness Committee Book Sale will be held on Saturday, June 1 from 8 AM to 6 PM and Sunday, June 2nd from 6:30 AM-1 PM. The proceeds help fund the Wellness Scholarship and other committee events. OLV Rummage Sale-the Rummage Sale will be held in the JFK school gym on: Wednesday, June 12 from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM Thursday, June 13 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Friday, June 14 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Saturday, June 15 from 8:00 AM to 12 PM. 8th grade, Class of 2019, graduation in June.

Minutes of Stewardship Committee Meeting
Our Lady of Victory Church, Davenport, IA
May 13, 2019

Members present: Nancy Stone, Matt Henning, Judy Johnson, Deacon Al Boboth, Monica Flathman, Peg Macek, Chuck Gerlach. Meeting opened with prayer led by Deacon Al.

1. Ministry Fair

Date: October 19-20, 2019

Place: Gathering Space, GSMR, and lawn space immediately outside (weather permitting)

Purpose: Help people become aware of OLV/JFK ministries and how they serve the parish. Help people find a place to serve.

Theme: Building God's Kingdom

Who: Any parish or school group invited to create a display to showcase their activities and recruit new members.

Stewardship Committee duties:

- Coordinate event. Lead planning meeting.
- Oversee set up/clean up
- Manage publicity
- Retrieve ministry banners from storage
- Fund refreshments and incidental items
- Update *Handbook of Ministries & Organizations*. Supply copies for distribution.
- Create project report summarizing event, evaluations, and matters to note for future reference

Participant Group duties:

- Create, erect and dismantle visual displays. NOTE: space limitations apply.
- Staff the exhibit following all Masses
- Supply desired handouts
- Coordinate method for recruiting and follow-up with potential new members
- Send representative to September planning meeting

Details will be sent to active OLV/JFK groups, committees and organizations in August. A planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9 @ 7 PM in the GSMR. Groups wishing to host a display are encouraged to attend, or RSVP by note or email. Purpose of the meeting is to review event details, answer questions, and share ideas.

In the meantime, groups are asked to **reserve the date and begin to gear up for this event**. Each group is encouraged to have a ministry banner that depicts the organization. Similar to past years, banner size is normally 2' x 3' with a cross pole and hanging rope across the top. Banners constructed years ago may need updating. Some groups may not even have a banner. Further information will be shared at the planning meeting.

2. Calendar

- Next meeting will be June 10, 2019 @ 7 PM in the GSMR. Agenda: Ministry Fair.
- No meeting in July
- All ministry groups are invited to our regular September meeting on 9/9/19 for discussion on the Ministry Fair.

May Wellness Report to Parish Council

From March 11th to May 5th, the parish nurses visited 119 people. 3 Blood Pressure clinics were held with 34 people being evaluated.

3 new First Aid kits were purchased for the parish center, alter server room and gathering space room.

Easter booklets were distributed to nursing home parishioners.

Progress continues with the Nourish program. A program that will offer guidance and support to the care givers in our parish.

The Wellness Committee's used book sale will be held the weekend of June 1st and 2nd.

The Grief Share program completed with 5 participants. An evaluation of the program was completed on May 7th and a report was given to Father Greiner. The next session is scheduled for September.

The next Wellness meeting will be held on August 6th starting at 6:30pm in the gathering space meeting room.

Faith Formation report to the Parish Council (May 2019)

Submitted by Jennifer Wemhoff

I participated in pastoral staff meetings during the month of May.

I attended the May Board of Education meeting.

I continue to write weekly bulletin articles.

I continue to update and track the Faith Formation budget.

I met with Rosina Hendrickson, Lifelong Faith and Lay Ministry Formation Coordinator for the Diocese of Davenport to discuss the September in-service the MORE group provides for the Davenport and Clinton deanery catechists.

I attended the May MORE (Ministers of Religious Education) meeting at St. Ann's in Long Grove.

I continue to participate in the Confirmation Revisioning meetings that Evan has scheduled.

I attended May Crowning for all OLV/JFK 8th graders on Sunday May 5 at the 11:00 mass.

I participated in the calendaring process for Faith Formation, Youth Ministry and JFK school events for the 2019-2020 school year.

I have asked the catechists and support helpers for Wednesday night Faith Formation classes who is returning for the 2019-2020 school year. From their responses I am looking for 2-3 classroom teachers. One catechist was a high school student and will not be returning due to high school activities on Wednesday evenings and another is unable to continue due to changing jobs. I am still waiting to hear back from the third catechist because they too are in flux due to job circumstances. I have begun asking individuals to fill the vacancies I currently have.

I provided an appreciation meal on April 24 for our catechists and support helpers.

The adult Bible study ***Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism***; concluded April 4. ***Fulfilled (Part II)*** is being offered to those that participated in Part I of the study and began Thursday April 25 and will end May 30.

First Communion practice was Thursday April 25 and First Communion was Sunday April 28 at 1:30pm. I organized pictures for First Communion as well as coordinating practice and planning the liturgy. 41 students received the sacrament. Please continue to pray for our First Communion students and their families.

Faith Formation registrations for the 2019-2020 school year have gone home with our current students. Additional forms can be found in the kiosk in the Gathering Space or on our website under the policies and forms tab.

Vacation Bible School will be held July 22-26. Students that will be entering kindergarten to those entering 5th grade will be eligible to participate. Currently 33 students have signed up for VBS. Cost of the week long

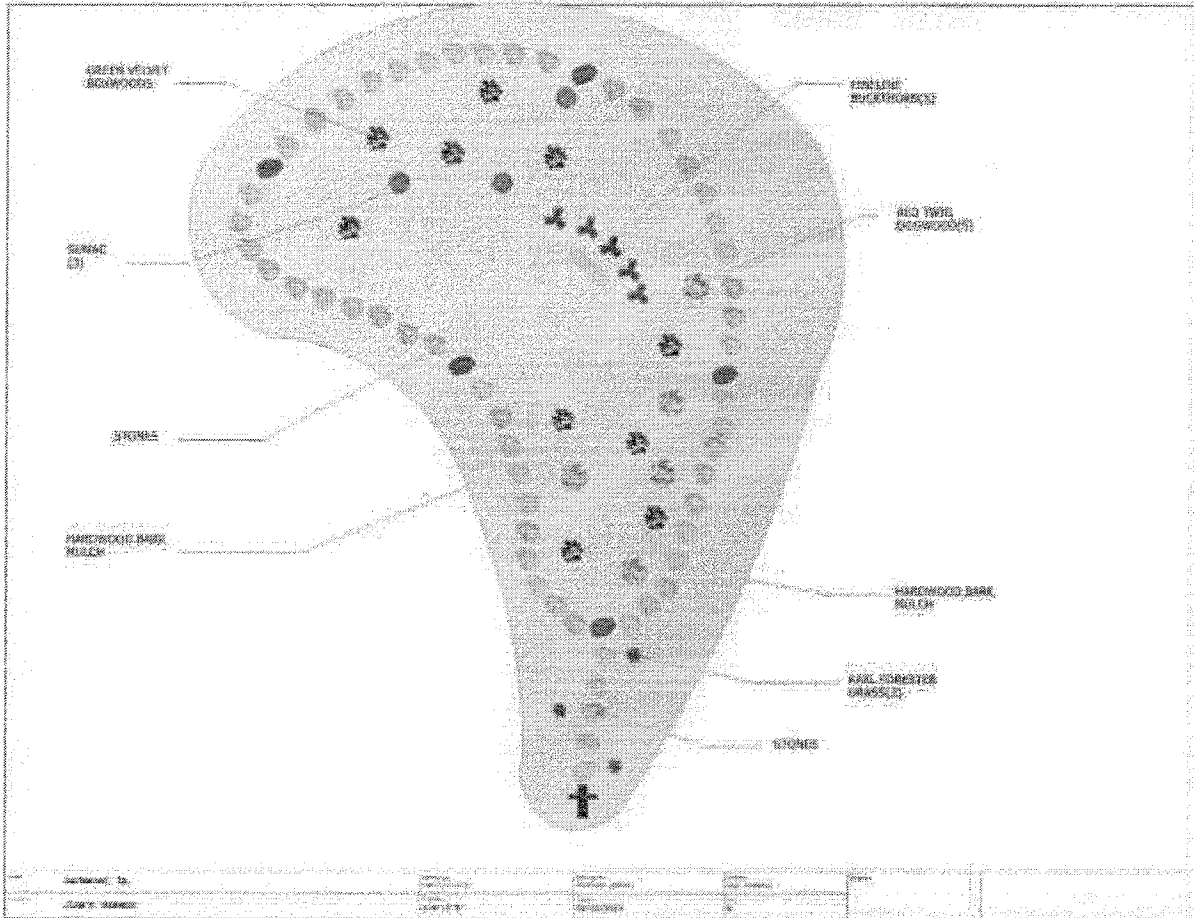
program will be \$25. Registrations are available at the rectory, in the kiosk in the Gathering Space, in the school office, and on our website.

Adult Faith Formation opportunities will begin again on Sunday September 8. A study on ***Wisdom God's Vision for Life*** will be offered. Cost of the journal is \$20 and I currently have 6 people signed up to participate.

Principal's Report to Parish Council: May 2019

Based upon information from the Principal's Posts (also available online)

Rosary Themed Project by Playground Fully Funded



The rosary themed project by the playground is fully funded through donations of funds, labor, and materials. We just need the ground to be dry enough for final grading before we can proceed!

Scott County Catholic Schools Strategic Plan Draft Meeting

About a year ago, Meitler was hired by the Assumption Foundation to examine how Catholic school education is provided in Scott County and provide suggestions on how we might continue to improve in the future. The executive summary will be presented to the OLV/JFK board of education, finance council, parish council, and other guests on Tuesday, June 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the parish center. The executive summary was distributed via email on May 5th.

Summer Programming at JFK

Vacation Bible School: Our Lady of Victory invites Children to *Roar VBS: Life is wild, God is good*. At Roar VBS (Vacation Bible School), kids discover that even though life gets wild, God is good. *Roar* is for kids entering kindergarten to those entering 5th grade. *Roar* VBS will be held July 22-26 and will run from 8:30 am to 11:30 am each day. Cost to attend is \$25.

Leaps & Bounds: Summer sessions focusing on reading and math for students currently in kindergarten – 5th grade. Student to teacher ratio is 7:1 or lower. There are three two-week sessions available. Sign up for one, two, or all three sessions. A minimum number of students is needed to financially support each session so sign up now.

Summer Book Club: Does your child love to read? Is he/she looking for a great book to read this summer? Are you looking for that book to inspire your child to love reading? Maybe you want your child to have some scheduled reading time and group discussion. The summer book club options are open to students entering 3rd-8th grade in the fall. Option one is twice a week for four weeks, and option two meets every day for one week. A minimum of three students is needed for each grade level time slot.

Instrumental Lessons: Don't put away the musical instrument for the whole summer! Mr. Connors offers instrumental music lessons over the summer. Dates and times can be individually arranged.

One-on-One Tutoring: Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Fox are offering one-on-one tutoring over this summer. Dates and times can be arranged individually during most mornings.

Gala and Candy Bar Sale Yield About \$36,000

While it always takes quite some time for all of the revenue and expenses to be finalized with the Gala, we are estimating that the Gala yielded about \$31,500 this year. We also held a quick, low key candy bar sale in late April/early May. The level of success took us by surprise. We made about \$5,000! That's amazing, especially at this time of year! Thank you to everyone who helped with these fundraisers.

OLV/JFK Campus Expanded with Donation

OLV/JFK's campus was expanded with the donation of two lots just to the south of the drive by the ball field. KwikTrip, Inc., owner of KwikStar, added these two lots to their donation of land to OLV. Our southern property line is now a straight line that backs up to KwikStar and extends from Division to Sturdevant. (OLV owns and rents out the white house and brown house on Division.) Volunteers have already begun the process of cleaning up the properties so we can better maintain the land in the future.

May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental health affects many families. According to the [National Alliance on Mental Health](#), 1 in 5 adults experience a mental illness, 20% of youth ages 13-18 live with a mental health condition, and depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide. Fifty percent of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14, and there is an 8-10 year gap between the onset of symptoms and intervention. Recognizing these issues, major legislation was passed this spring in Iowa that will establish a Children's Behavioral Health System State Board that will guide age-appropriate universal screening and help provide services in the areas of prevention, early identification, early intervention, community prevention, and comprehensive crisis services.

Five Year Employment Recognition

Several employees were recognized for their five year employment increments with OLV/JFK:

5 years: Meredith Ash, Kayelyn Blake, Kim Burken, Angie Hillebrand, Kathy Knox, Sasha Lundquist, and Jodi Weiser

10 years: Julie Baker, Sara Tilkens, and Alicia Turnquist

15 years: Michelle Jordan

30 years: Shelly Furlong

Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry
Report to the Parish Council
5/28/2019 – 7:00PM

We are disciples of Jesus making faith matter and sharing God's love to make more disciples.

The three goals for youth ministry as described by Renewing the Vision are:

Goal 1: To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

Goal 2: To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.

Goal 3: To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

We continue to focus on discipleship which involves (communally and individually):

1. Introduction to Jesus through and in a personal relationship with Him
2. The deepening of total prayer life
3. Discernment of God's will and our spiritual gifts
4. The living out of that discernment through service as the mission of the Church
5. Gaining the ability to clearly explain and defend one's beliefs
6. Developing spiritual defenses

What are we doing to accomplish these goals?

The Diocese has begun re-visioning its Catholics in Action service retreat, and I am part of the team participating in the process. We met over the school year to continue planning for this retreat – but at the April YM Leaders gathering, the various youth ministers of the diocese chose not to participate in leadership for the event, effectively killing it for this year. Instead, we will focus on local mission work with middle school students, as well as with our usual high school group, possibly focused on flood relief and response. The Diocese is also pushing an initiative called “Step out to Serve,” focused on highlighting and encouraging all summer service work between Memorial Day and Labor Day for middle school and high school families.

Rebuilding Together Quad Cities (RTQC) no longer exists as of the end of January. Beginning February 4th, RTQC has combined with Habitat for Humanity. Together they will still offer the same sorts of home repair projects, but with increased levels of efficiency and training for volunteers. I met with Deacon Steve Barton on Friday, February 22nd to look at planning this year's summer mission. I am working on arranging meetings for our parish leaders on the summer mission work so we can get started on planning and preparations. For our younger age mission work, I would like to work on flood relief in some way, perhaps in conjunction with the Knights and Scouts. We are still waiting to hear from Habitat about potential dates before going before the parish.

Generations of Faith: We have finished developing focus group questions and permission forms. We conducted our first two focus group studies in December and January, with high school and college aged cohorts. The conclusions of these sessions are included below. **Please see the additional, attached reports for more details.**

Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry
Report to the Parish Council
5/28/2019 – 7:00PM

Luke Ebener, Tommy Fallon, and I are working on a common system for developing individualized spiritual plans. That system has now been incorporated into our small group guides for small group leaders, and training for how to use it has begun. We have 11 small group leaders signed up at this time, with possibly more to come, and have completed training for 8 of them.

Our last middle school youth night was May 17th, after Gala and the Crusader Theater. We worked with parents to offer a night on technology, but also a big end of school year party, featuring a photo scavenger hunt ranging across the campus, a video on what technological issues are doing to society, and a parents vs teens improv session featuring common situations involving smart phones.

High school youth nights in May were focused on relationships and apologetics – including who God is, why Catholics treat Mary the way that we do, and how to recognize unhealthy relationships and end them safely and appropriately. Our last youth night this month will focus on sending off our seniors!

Our senior guys small group continues to meet and the guys are having a great experience and growing together.

Salute to Seniors was May 19th, we handed out gifts of the Catholic Hipster Handbook and How I Stayed Catholic at Harvard to the seniors, as well as donuts and coffee and juice for all families. Blessings were given at masses, and at the 11am mass we announced that Donna Diggs won this year's Monsignor Parizek Scholarship.

We've had a few more people express interest in attending NCYC, so we're now at a total of 36 attendees. We are looking at holding a Trivia Night this October to help raise more money for the trip. This fundraiser would need to be approved by the parish council before it could be held. We have narrowed down some dates to Oct 19. **Please see the fundraiser request form which will be distributed at the meeting.**

I have been attending the Quad City COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) meetings at the QC Community Foundation for the past month. Through these meetings I've been able to provide information on flood response to Fr. Jake, staff, and the social action committee at OLV. I will continue to stay plugged in with this organization to look for opportunities for OLV to assist in the flood response.

Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry
Report to the Parish Council
5/28/2019 – 7:00PM

Confirmation Coordinator's Report:

Revisoning Confirmation: The visioning process for Confirmation we are using comes from the Center for Ministry Development (CMD), and training in it was part of my certification process for youth ministry. For April we are meeting on the 26th and 29th. When we met last time we delved into the topic of core purpose – and have almost completed our discernment on it. We discerned the following core values for the Confirmation preparation ministry at OLV: Love of the faith, transformational relationship with God, developing faith-filled relationships, and sharing God's gifts through service. Following this visioning process, we will then utilize vision to action tools from the CMD to begin planning for upcoming years, and looking at adjustments to the program over time to reach our identified goals.

We're also looking at expanding the utilization of the Gifts and Talents inventory which was implemented last year with JFK 8th graders as part of the school's strategic plan to 8th graders in FF as well as potentially 7th graders as well as part of Confirmation preparation. We discussed this option and several others at our Confirmation revisoning sessions.

Holy Fire: The biggest change in how we approached Confirmation preparation this past year was with the replacement of the 7th grade NET retreat with the Holy Fire Chicago conference. The diocese is now in discussions with Declan Weir Productions and NFCYM to bring Holy Fire to Iowa. Originally they were aiming for Des Moines in the Spring of 2020, but due to feasibility issues with the dates they are now looking at a time frame closer to November of 2020. The main difficulty for the Spring offering was that the dates they were considering were both Sundays, and one of them was during Spring Break. We want to continue offering Holy Fire as a school field trip and confirmation retreat next year, and so Chad, Jen, and I decided to look into the Chicago Friday option. We have booked two buses for Chicago in the Fall, and will be joining up with other local parishes to attend the trip and keep costs low, including Prince of Peace in Clinton, and Sts. Mary and Mathias in Muscatine. I also hosted four parent information meetings throughout the month of May on different days of the week to give parents an opportunity to come learn more about the trip, ask questions, and express concerns. Only about 8 people took advantage of these, and from their questions, I generated a parent's letter and FAQ document which went out to families on May 23rd. Those who had major concerns appeared to be satisfied by the end of our meetings.

Photo sessions with TSS went well, with only one 8th grader missing that session due to mistaking the date. We did catch the miss, and were able to get him to the church on time for the Mass. Confirmation photo proofs were approved last week.

Confirmation was held on April 13th, at 1:30pm. Forty-two 8th graders were Confirmed, and no major issues occurred.

Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministry
Report to the Parish Council
5/28/2019 – 7:00PM

Focus Group Research Conclusions:

The particular responses received from teen aged participants do not disagree on the whole with the broad survey responses of the parish. Teens noted holes in areas of being invited into leadership, other barriers of entry into participation in the life of the parish, and being told they weren't good enough. They identified only a small sub-population of the parish as actively listening to them and their concerns in the sense of accompaniment used by Pope Francis recently. That population does include the pastor, some staff, and volunteers, but only those working directly with youth. This indicates a parish culture that does not empathize as a whole with young people, and is noticeably out of touch based on their responses. Teens expressed a strong dislike for authoritarian, top-down answers to life questions and to the Gospel, and an instinctive dislike for what the Fuller Youth Institute calls Moralistic-Therapeutic Deism (MTD), which is a heresy focused on following sets of rules from an impersonal deity so that you can feel better about your life. Unfortunately, what they identify as having received at OLV bears a strong resemblance to this heresy. Overall, teens felt welcome in the parish liturgies, and several reported participating in liturgical ministries, but they were distressed by the general quality of liturgy – particularly music ministries. They recognize that there are frequently broad invitations to the parish or requests for help, but also show a post-modern tendency to need a personal invitation before believing they would be truly welcome. This reflected strongly on their perceptions of parish priorities as well – they hear that youth are the future, but they want to be the church now in order to be prepared for the future. Finally, teens did believe that the parish was a place they could come to help gain direction for their lives, and input for their life issues, usually closely ranked with family and friends.

College students identified multiple barriers to entry for leading in the parish based on scheduling, age, and entrenched leadership not sharing or training new leaders within the parish. They shared a similar desire for personal invitation with the high school cohort as well. They believe that the parish needs to do more reaching out and listening to young people – especially those not currently very involved or active in parish life, and to be more flexible in ministry offerings. They noted that the parish as a whole makes too many assumptions and judgments about people in general. The messages they receive from the parish are mixed – on the one hand they receive care packages to tell them they're missed while they're gone, but on the other hand when they return there are no ministries which seek to meet their needs, and they feel that they don't fit in either "adult" or "youth" ministries. Thus, some things the parish does for college age participants make them feel appreciated and welcomed, but when they're home, they're still defined by their relationship with their parents. They don't feel there's anything in place for them, and that the parish isn't open to change. They expressed a sense of being known at OLV, and so being comfortable going to people for guidance. At the same time they said the parish doesn't really understand what they're facing. They feel known at the surface level, but not in their depths. They describe a parish which has many internal friendships and a strong community, but which also struggles with its proximate neighbors – struggling with fears and past grievances, and walling itself in. These results seem to confirm the initial survey results of the parish as well.

Report on Completed focus group research with high school students for the Parish Council.
May 25th, 2019

The focus group research that we conducted with high school teens and college students to further develop our research from our initial usage of the Growing Young survey in the parish was centered around seven questions – one for each of the Growing Young Metrics, and one “catch-all” question at the end in case we missed something. For the format of this report, I will give each metric and our rating in that metric from our initial survey research along with a brief description of what it means. I will provide the corresponding question we formulated for focus group research purposes, and then highlighted notes from each conversation. In the conclusion I will offer a brief analysis of the results.

Each question asked in the original assessment was scored on a scale of 1-5, and each metric had three questions, so each score is calculated by adding the scores and dividing by 3, EG: $(1+3+4)/3$. All total scores from 1-2 are considered low, from 2-3.5 are medium, and from 3.5-5 are high. The Fuller Youth Institute suggests that these metrics flow into one another in a feed loop, but that keychain leadership holds a pivotal position in that cycle, and that prioritization proved crucial for continuing the process over time. It also recommends that churches who want to intentionally improve themselves in one or more areas should focus on lower ranked sections to start.

Metric 1: Unlocking keychain leadership. Avg. Score: 1.9 LOW - refers to the practice of intentionally sharing more and more leadership within the parish community.

Our question for young people:

In what ways do you, or do you think young people in general, feel invited into positions of leadership and influence in the church?

Their response:

The first responded focused on youth ministry. “I think it depends on what they need you to help with. I know this year, for the Sweetheart’s Dinner, they mentioned – Evan especially mentioned – he wants teens to get into taking over so it’s easier to get the new people trained and doing it.” Another added, “we’re going to have a couple people that we’ve brought to the attention of Evan and some of the other youth ministry staff that of who we think would be a good fit to be a leader, depending on what the role is. But I think it depends on what they need volunteers for – of how they can assign youth to a leadership role.”

When prompted to go beyond the youth ministry setting, the first answer was, “I’d say like participating in mass. In third grade I got into altar serving, because I was bored just sitting there. I wanted to get involved. I wanted to do something in Mass. I wanted to feel like I was doing something to help the church. So when I did altar serving I absolutely loved it. And when our class got to do class parts, I wanted to do that part. I really wanted to participate in mass.

That's what I think is the biggest thing to how teens get involved." Another agreed that altar serving was, "the best few years of my life." And yet, "everyone's like, "oh we need more young people to do lecturing, gift bearers, and stuff like that," and then they usually say something to us but then sometimes [young] people forget." I believe this respondent was trying to say that they forget these opportunities are available to them because of some of the later comments, like this one from a teen expressing agreement, "Yeah, they make the announcements about it, but I think also, depending on what it is, it's harder too? During mass the communion - people who help with communion - that's one of the things that's harder. Because [...] I think you need to have something specific that allows you to help during communion. But there's the contemporary choir we have at the 11 o'clock mass. There's a couple young people in it, but there's only like two that I've seen at most that are singing at mass. I've volunteered and I've been a part of it – not singing, but playing my instrument. It's one of those things that if they put it out there I think a little better it would be easier to get people to get involved and to take a leadership role of it."

When prompted again, with this question, "Do you feel like there are ways that young people are blocked from leadership roles in the church?" The answer from some other teens was, "I think we're told we can't do it as well. Like, adults are more experience and they, you know" When asked, "Maybe you're invited to do something, but then when you did it you didn't do it well enough?" Several answered in the affirmative, one even saying, "I got told I wasn't good enough." Another noted a different barrier to entry, "Or they're like, 'Oh well, to do this you have to have this training,' and a lot of teens, we're not worried about getting it, or we just don't want to get it yet, because [...] once we get done with high school we're probably going to be moving away for college. [...] We're going to be gone and that training is going to be useless to us when we're gone." To which the first agreed, "A lot of times teens don't want to do the training. They just want something easy to do and get involved. Because when you have to go through this whole long training, it just gets boring [...] by the time you get up there to participate, you don't want to do it anymore." To this statement several other teens agreed, though not necessarily that training wasn't always needed, but that it provides a significant barrier to entry and that, "by the time we finish that we're going to be like, "well that was pointless, I don't want to help anymore."

Metric 2: Empathize with today's emerging adults. Avg. Score: 1.6 LOW - refers to the work we do to understand today's young people - their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, their questions, how they think about the world, and what they find meaningful.

Our question for young people:

Do you think that the staff, like Fr. Jake, Evan, anyone else who's in a formal role with the Church, as well as the overall congregation of OLV, deeply understand the things that are important to teenagers and young people in the world today? We mean young people, may be

beyond you, we mean anywhere between 14/15 up through even like 29, is the whole area we're trying to capture. Speaking at least for yourselves, do you feel like the staff and the congregation at OLV understand what's important to people in that age range in the world today?

Their response:

Some teens started out talking about youth ministry and Fr. Jake, "I know Evan would definitely, probably, be one of those staff that knows and would be able to talk with the younger group. [...] he's with some of the younger kids in middle school, now, too. He gets to see that different side of how we see things because he's around teens as much as he is, and I know Fr. Jake would know, probably not as much as Evan, but he would definitely know some because of him being the pastor of OLV and knowing and getting to know some of the youth at different events, even stopping down at youth night sometimes and joining in, so kind of getting to know and being around that group. I feel like they would know out of all the other staff there is." When the interviewer prompted them again to describe their overall sense of whether the congregation and staff understood youth, another teen answered, "I think they do. Sometimes. Because some of them they have kids, but their kids are grown up but still young, and they've dedicated their life to this basically. Even though Evan's not our age, but I think he still feels like sometimes he can be like a kid and an adult at the same time. He interacts with us all the time. He asks us about our life. How are we doing, what have we been doing, and what have we been doing lately, stuff like that. He's always so happy with what we've been doing with our lives and how we live it. And they [adult participants in youth ministry] [...] do ask and then we talk and they listen, and we have a whole conversation with them." Teens drew a strong connection between understanding and those asking about them and their lives, and then listening to them, and also highlighted that Fr. Jake and Fr. Dan, who they interacted with frequently also asked about their lives and listened to them.

They also wanted believed that, "everyone was a teenager once in their life, so if they can tell us what they've experienced, then maybe we might say, 'ok, maybe I can try that!'" And, "they've been a teenager once, so they probably know a thing or two." The fact that everyone has been a teenager means everyone should be able to understand at least a little. Another variable they discussed for staff members were that those with teenage children should also be able to understand, as they're witnessing it again, first hand. Another means of empathy was found in "even the ones that may not talk to the teens. They definitely care, just in their own way. We had the prayer groups that we had, that I know there have been a couple times that they might have some teens that they have to pray for. So there's definitely people within the church that help that are in their own way - that definitely would care and would know."

Jan Tappa and Taffy Brown were highlighted from hospitality ministry as being two who invite teens, and treat them well. "I got into it by Taffy Brown. And she's like, 'now you're like a

daughter to me.' Cause most of her relatives are far away from Davenport, so she treats me like a daughter."

When asked, "Do you feel like the messages are the same or are they different between staff and the overall congregation?" A different set of teens answered, "I feel like the staff, like the youth ministry staff can understand us because we see them a lot. But like we don't really ever talk to like Fr. Jake or any of them, so I feel like maybe it's harder to understand because we never see them," and "I'd say close staff to us can understand us, relate to us, everything like that, but lots of adults just don't get us." With some frustration one went on to say, "They'll come up to us say, "Hi, how's your life going," whatever like that. But it's like they try to relate to us and they just don't get it. *If we say we have a problem, they'll say just do this simple thing, but it's not that easy for us.* They don't understand what we're going through, and how can I relate to this 38 year old person that I usually never see or I only see once every two weeks? How is he able to understand me, and bring me back in to the church when we can't make a connection? Cause he just doesn't get what we're going through." (Emphasis added to highlight a fundamental failure to actively listen.) And another agreed, saying, "I think that's a lot of the people who are just a part of the church that may not help but like the people that just go and you might talk to them during/after mass, but it's kind of that thing of, "how can you relate to me? We almost never see each other [...]. It's just one of the things where they might think they understand, but they really don't, because they don't see it from our perspective. Yeah they did maybe at one time, but it's different now because things have changed probably from when they were younger and when they were teens. They try to relate, but it's hard for them, because they didn't grow up now, how we are, and how different things have changed from when they were growing up to now, so I think it's harder for them to understand us."

The difference that teens detected between those who understood them and those who don't was in the amount of time spent interacting with young people, and the interest they have in teens and their lives. On the whole they only identified small groups or individuals whom they felt showed a genuine interest in them. They also closed noting that they hear people say things like, "I know your parents!" Their response was generally, "Who are you?" Knowing their parents doesn't mean you know them or that they know you.

Metric 3: Take Jesus' message seriously. Avg. Score: 2.9 MED - refers to communities which embrace the Good News of Jesus Christ in a living way, within the framework of the entire story of God's salvific plan.

Our question for young people:

"What do you feel are the central messages that young people get from OLV in general?"

Their response:

The first response from the teens focused on Catholic identity, but in a negative light. The first respondent noted that the message heard from OLV was that, "you have to be

Catholic, and you can't change, you can't do – you have to follow specific outlines and rules ... your entire life." Another chimed in that, "from just listening to the readings of like what happened during different events, before during and after Jesus was on Earth. You kind of get that sense of what He wanted for us is exactly like what was said - These laid out guidelines, along with how it seems like Catholics have to follow the 10 commandments to the T, you have to follow exactly what they say, you can't turn it into what you think it is. It's more of you have to go off what it says word for word." And another developed it further by noting, "Oh if you want to do this, you gotta go to reconciliation. If you don't feel like going to reconciliation, follow these rules then." The message from OLV about being Catholic was identified with following a set of rigid rules from which you could not deviate, and if you wanted to do anything else, you had to go to confession. Or as the interviewer put it, "there's not a diversity of opinion that's shared."

The mention of confession brought out another theme, "I haven't been to reconciliation for a while. I always just started praying to God and like some kids think, "Oh, you're Catholic?" They just have a stereotypical way of like, "Oh, you're Catholic?" So, you just worship, just, you know, like think of God all the time. And I'm like, mmh mmh, nope." This was a message perceived from outside of church about people who go to church, "because some people don't really know what OLV is like." But another noted, "I think Catholic schools have something to do with that. If someone questions you about your faith what do you say? Because everyone around you has the same faith, and if they don't, then they don't like say anything. You know? So it's like, if you go to a public school now after 11 years of Catholic school, someone comes up and questions it, I just say, "Oh no," because I wanna fit in." Another with no Catholic school experience mentioned that, "If somebody asks 'why are you Catholic,' or 'oh you're Catholic, why is this the thing, or why are you doing it?' It's just one of those... that you don't really get that sense of, like in Catholic schools you wouldn't get that sense of how to protect your own faith, but, like, public schools you kinda just have to do it your own way." Another said, "We don't know how to defend our faith so close to home." There seems to be a noted lack of a deep understanding of the Catholic Faith, and how to talk about it with non-Catholics, even from kids going through JFK.

Another theme highlighted was, "Go and spread your faith, and if you aren't then you're failing as a Catholic," "if you don't like pray all the time and everything, I feel like then you're not really Catholic," and "the less you do in the Church the further away you get from God." When it was put to them in this way, all the teens agreed that one of the central messages they hear from OLV is: "Here's how you're not doing enough."

When directed back to the heart of the question, one response was, "Fr. Jake has really good explanations for all ages really in his homilies." On a similar positive note, "the nice thing though, is the [...] different priests that have been here, that I've seen how they do their masses. I mean [...] I've found different messages for myself from each priest. [...] with Fr. Jake

it's, "Here's what I did. Don't do what I did!" kind of thing. Whereas with Fr. Meyer and Monsignor, it was more of, "what in the Scripture can I apply to my own life?" Cause there wasn't that personalization to their homilies of like personal stories, like how Fr. Jake does it. Even Fr. Dan, his homilies kind of gave me that sense of "what can I adapt from what he knows through his life, what can I use and adapt to my life to make my life better?" There was a clear distinction drawn between homilies which are personal and make use of story-telling, and those which were more academic, or based on Scriptural interpretation.

Another teen noted that, "whenever I'm in Church God is right there. [...] and even though I'm not in church God will always be with me throughout life. I can just sometimes feel them here on my shoulder. [...] They can guide me throughout my life." The ability of God to comfort and support this teen was very important. Another volunteered that, "[...] I know, when I lost relatives [...] being at mass around that time, it kind of felt like God was there and He was just being with me and just kind of to make sure that I get through it alright. And even with that, I firmly believe that He would send them down to let me know that they're alright and that they're watching over me now, even after they're gone. And it's - it's just that kind of message that I get that of - he's gonna be the one to help you through tragedy, through anything."

Metric 4: Fuel a warm community. Avg. Score: 3.1 MED - refers to the life shared among the congregation that draws people into the community.

Our question for young people:

"Describe from your own perspective the feeling of our worship gatherings. Do they feel warm and inviting, pretty distant, cold, standard? Do you feel like you're invited to be a part of them? Do you feel like you're pretty disconnected from them?"

Their response:

In general the teens expressed a sense that the community was "pretty inviting, but a little too scripted." While they recognized that there is less liberty in terms of the Catholic liturgical tradition, they still wanted to be able to "put our own perspective on things." Two of the respondents, mentioned participating in hospitality ministry, and both had a stronger overall feeling of warmth and impression of the parish being welcoming while not disagreeing with the sense of being scripted. One mentioned that "it's definitely warm and inviting, but you also kind of get that sense of plainness." The other told a story from the Easter Vigil, "there was this guy from Ohio, and it was really welcoming for him, from Ohio to come to the Easter Vigil."

The teens lamented the apparent lack of other high school aged teens at mass, expressing their response in terms of the questions they would think at mass like, "oh no one else is here, why am I here?" The presence of lack thereof of teens was an issue even for those who had previously noted that they felt it was more welcoming at OLV. "Oh yeah, I always check out, who do I know that's a teenager, and I only see like 2 or 3." Of the masses, none

reported attending the 7am Sunday mass, and the 4:30pm Saturday mass was highlighted as being particularly difficult for teens, while the 9 was noted for the choir, and the 11am for the music group and for having a few more teens present. One noted, "I'll say one thing, the Saturday masses, the songs are veeeery slow. It's very slow and I lose interest very fast." Another on the subject of music mentioned, "I feel like when someone hears music, they're like, "it's relaxed or really upbeat," and they're like, "ok, I like this, I'm going to stick with OLV." A musician among them expressed that, "when I'm looking at the book itself, I also sometimes, I'll just sit there and I'll be singing and reading the notes on the page, and I'll just be like, "I know how to play this on my instrument, I could play this a lot faster."

Finally, on the subject of participation, one of the teens, noted that, "I know that we could like sign up for things, but I feel like if teens had more of a part in the church, I feel like a lot of people would be more involved. If there was more like things open." The general consensus of the group was that our liturgies are, "welcoming, but boring." Even the respondents who go to the 11am mass frequently mentioned, "Sometimes there's moments when you could be sitting there listening to the readings, and then you're like, "Oh, I'm starting to fall asleep – WHY AM I FALLING ASLEEP IN MASS?" But at the same time they offered this very positive note at the end, "So it's kind of like it's just a big family gathering, and even though, yeah, you might not know a lot of the people there, most of the people there, but it's still, you still get that sense of, "I'm with family."

Metric 5: Prioritize emerging adults (and their families) everywhere. Avg. Score: 1.7 LOW- refers at its heart to what our community is willing to do to reach emerging adults and their families, as best measured by what we'd be willing to give up.

Our question for young people:

Where do you see young people, again that 15-20s sort of range, fitting into the priorities at OLV? Do you think that you or young people in general feel needed throughout the congregation?

Their response:

For this question, the teens wanted immediate clarification. "What do you mean by priorities?" The interviewer for the group answered, "I think, for me, priorities means the importance to the church. Where do you feel like young people fit into that [...]?"

Another teen answered with some frustration, "They always say young people are always the future of the church. You know? You gotta stay in the church. You guys are the future. But they don't do anything to get us involved. We come to church, and we leave. Like, ok, maybe we come to youth group and stuff, but that's really it. And then they constantly say, 'you're the future of the church.' Ok? Well what am I gonna do in the church? I can't just come here and do nothing!" Throughout this the teen was interrupted frequently by a couple other teens who agreed emphatically – and it should be noted that those are the same teens who

self-reported that they were more involved in mass ministries and had been personally invited. Those teens noted, “You always hear, ‘oh the younger group is always the future, you’re going to be the people that are taking care of other people and you’re gonna be the ones that are going to be teaching the new groups of people that come in.’ But the only way that I’ve seen that we’re really able to help is at like different events that they need younger people to help at. Like at the Bazaar.” They recognized the value young people can bring to things like the Bazaar helping lift heavier things. “But [...] during mass they really don’t reach out to teens and the younger group of people. It’s like the groups of people that run these events – it’s more of they mention it at church, but it’s not a thing of we need to have younger people help, it’s just this ‘we need volunteers.’ It’s never a, ‘we want more young people helping so we can learn and eventually maybe take over.’” This is a statement indicative of an issue in the first metric as much as it is a problem here. The first frustrated teen answered, “A lot of time when we ‘volunteer’ it’s because we have to.” Several agreed citing school mandated needs for service hours, or the hours needed to be Confirmed coming back to the sense of rules and requirements they expressed in earlier sessions.

When asked, “Do you think young people feel needed throughout the congregation for something beyond the service hours you need to do?” One answered, “Oh! Yeah! There’s people, they’re definitely needed. It’s just... I just don’t think some of the people know how to reach out to us, to the younger people, because they’re just like, “We’re gonna make this announcement at mass about this event that we need this amount of volunteers, and that we’d like to have younger people. But they always say, they always usually will take anybody. Which – I’m not saying to stop taking anybody, but it’s more of – go to the younger people first, and get those who want to do it, and then move on to people who’ve done it before. Because the only way you’re going to get people involved to volunteer not just for service hours is going to them first.” General agreement followed this pronouncement that more needs to be done to get young people involved, including with the use of social media to reach out. They know that youth ministry uses social media, and JFK uses some, but didn’t know of the parish using it at all.

Metric 6: Be the best neighbors. Avg. Score: 2.6 MED - refers to how we interact with the world around us. Do we love and shape the world well?

Our question for young people:

If you needed help in discovering or navigating your calling in the world, where would OLV rank in terms of the place or places that you would look for help?

Their response:

This question began with some confusion at first, with the first teen being focused more on what people wanted to do, rather than where they would look for assistance. But eventually this person noted, “I would think that OLV would be at the top of my list. [...] I would ask advice

and talk to the people here. I mean I would talk to my family first, then like, ok, if this is not helping I would talk to someone else and get someone else's perspective about what direction I want to go to." Another added, "I would say first ask relatives first, then say that's not really helping, I must pray about it. So I'll just pray for it and see what happens." A third teen brought up that, "I would say it's really my only source. Because if I talk to a parent or relative they're gonna tell me as much as they know, then they're going to refer me back to OLV. Being born and grown up in OLV, it's really my only place to go. I was never exposed to any other sources. Sure I could go online, but what am I gonna do online? Find the same stuff that comes here, so..." A fourth teen added to some agreement, "I would say it would be my first choice because I feel like they would give me good options, and it wouldn't be like you were talking to a parent who wanted you to make one choice. I think everyone would be supportive if you went to OLV." There was strong agreement that OLV would be a place that teens trust to go for help navigating life, without judgment and with listening. When prompted as to who, exactly, they were referring to, the staff and volunteers mentioned earlier as understanding were referenced. Another teen specifically mentioned the Wemhoffs, "Because they know what they're talking about."

One teen who had expressed some agreement but not spoken much yet on this question noted that, "don't think I'd rely on OLV too much for help on deciding something, but I think that's more of because, yes, I know I can come here and get a good answer, but I also feel like there's other options that would be above it, like family. Even though you might get a more straight forward answer here from people who help with teens, or maybe even if you're talking to another parishioner you know. They might give you a more straight forward answer, but I think for me at least they'd be second or third on my list of where I'd go for help." When prompted, another teen who had been pretty quiet throughout the sessions answered, "I'd say probably number 2, I usually go with just friends and family all the time. I wouldn't say it's never not worked, but if it didn't work I'd probably come to youth ministry or something."

Closing "catch-all" question for young people:

Is there anything else you want to share about how the parish can improve its ministry with young people? For you specifically or for young people generally that you think is something the parish could do to help?

Their Response:

The first teen to speak noted that, "they should make it more interactive. I mean just to be an adult in the church you have to go through faith formation or a bunch of religion classes when you are in grade school and high school and stuff. I think if they made it more interactive to where you actually went out and did something as a group. Sometimes youth ministry does parishioners helping parishioners or like service projects. Instead of just flip open to this page and we have a test next week on all this." Another joined in that, "it should not be shoved

down your throat.” And a third said, “I think even Faith Formation classes helping at those I’ve found that kind of thing [...] seems a little forced. It’s a thing of you get signed up and you have to go. There’s no getting out of it. Once you’re signed up for Faith Formation it’s a thing of you go until you’re confirmed. And then you finish out that time of classes and then you’re done with it. It seems like they kinda try and force some of the things they do that would help to get the younger kids involved in church things it just kind of seems a little forced sometimes.” A fourth said, “going back [...] to what [another teen] was saying about Faith Formation , I went K-5th. So like the class got smaller and smaller every year. [...] in 6th grade [...] I only saw 3 people from my grade that showed up that night. ” The emphasis seems to be on the negative aspects of a classroom based model to faith formation.

When asked, “Any last thoughts on what we could do to help outreach to young people more?” The last teen answered, “It should be encouraged for discussion. I don’t think it should be this is what the Bible says this is what you should go by—Have a Nice Day. I think it should be, this is what the Bible says, discuss it among people and see what they think. What does it mean to them? Discussion should be encouraged.” Another added, “open-shut case basically.”

In conclusion:

The particular responses received from teen aged participants do not disagree on the whole with the broad survey responses of the parish. Teens noted holes in areas of being invited into leadership, other barriers of entry into participation in the life of the parish, and being told they weren’t good enough. They identified only a small sub-population of the parish as actively listening to them and their concerns in the sense of accompaniment used by Pope Francis recently. That population does include the pastor, some staff, and volunteers, but only those working directly with youth. This indicates a parish culture that does not empathize as a whole with young people, and is noticeably out of touch based on their responses. Teens expressed a strong dislike for authoritarian, top-down answers to life questions and to the Gospel, and an instinctive dislike for what the Fuller Youth Institute calls Moralistic-Therapeutic Deism (MTD), which is a heresy focused on following sets of rules from an impersonal deity so that you can feel better about your life. Unfortunately, what they identify as having received at OLV bears a strong resemblance to this heresy. Overall, teens felt welcome in the parish liturgies, and several reported participating in liturgical ministries, but they were distressed by the general quality of liturgy – particularly music ministries. They recognize that there are frequently broad invitations to the parish or requests for help, but also show a post-modern tendency to need a personal invitation before believing they would be truly welcome. This reflected strongly on their perceptions of parish priorities as well – they hear that youth are the future, but they want to be the church now in order to be prepared for the future. Finally, teens did believe that the parish was a place they could come to help gain direction for their lives, and input for their life issues, usually closely ranked with family and friends.

Family Life and Knights of Columbus Report for May.

The Knight of Columbus hosted a Mother's Day brunch.

There is a diaper drive going on to assist Mother's who did not choose Abortion. The diapers will be provided to the Women's Choice Center for distribution. This event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.