

Pastoral Council Update



Issue 7
Fall 2017

My name is Beth Bullen and I am a parishioner at St Columba from the St Martin De Porres parish. I have been on our pastoral council since 2015, and became the council chair in June 2017. Stewardship is very important to me, and being involved in our parish council has allowed me to serve the Church.



St. Vincent De Paul

My chairperson role is occurring at a dynamic time for our newly formed St Martin De Porres parish. Earlier this year, the cluster of St Columba (Caledonia) St Mary of the Assumption (Scottsville) and Saint Vincent De Paul (Churchville) officially became Saint Martin De Porres Parish. We believe that our transition from a cluster to a parish has gone well. You may wonder what helped us move from a cluster to a parish. Our parish council identified the following interventions as being helpful with our transition process:



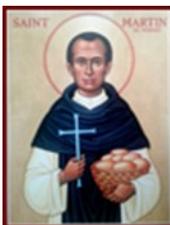
St. Mary of the Assumption

- ◇ First and foremost, we prayed. We prayed before, during and after the merger process.
- ◇ We reminded ourselves that We are The Church. The church is not the building that we gather in for Mass. The Church is the people who are His hands and feet .

- ◇ Our cluster council meetings were attended by Karen Reinfiend. Karen clarified our questions throughout the process, responded to our merger concerns, and explained the merger process in detail.
- ◇ We reminded ourselves that above all we needed to listen to our parishioners and we needed to listen to each other.
- ◇ We asked our business manager to attend a meeting. She discussed how money was used prior to our merger and what could be expected as a merged parish.
- ◇ We facilitated Town Hall meetings at each church. This allowed our parishioners to ask questions, voice concerns, and obtain an answer from our pastor or from the council. Two appointed council members took careful notes at each town hall meeting. All concerns were tabulated so our council could assess merger advantages and disadvantages as expressed by our parishioners.
- ◇ We have had an annual picnic and multiple social events as a cluster. These events helped our parishioners get to know each other. We continue to value social events as a merged parish. We just celebrated our first parish mass on November 3 on the feast day of St Martin De Porres.



St. Columba



ST. MARTIN DE PORRES PARISH

St. Columba - Caledonia, NY - St. Mary of the Assumption - Scottsville, NY - St. Vincent de Paul - Churchville, NY -

A COMMUNITY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Pastoral Council Liaison Contact information

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<http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/pastoral-services/>

Parish Events around the Diocese

From Lynne Conway, Pastoral Council Chair
Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, NY

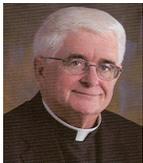
More than 200 Boxes of Joy were collected from parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church in Ithaca. Filled with toys and school supplies, these wonderful gifts will be sent to Guatemala, Haiti, or the Dominican Republic through the efforts of Cross Catholic Outreach.



Pictured are Rich and Deb Rasmussen, project coordinators.

ADVENT PARISH MISSION -Our Mother of Sorrows Church

"The Eucharist: Gift and Challenge"



Fr. Andy O'Reilly, C.P.P.S.

M.Div. from Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Studied at Graduate Theological Union, Berkely, California. Popular preacher with experience as seminary formation director and nearly 25 years as pastor of parishes throughout the country.

December 4, 5 and 6; 1:30-2:30 pm and 7:00-8:00 pm

- Living the Eucharistic Presence of Jesus
- Living the Eucharistic Sacrifice of Jesus
- Living the Eucharistic Mission of Jesus

Choosing your Pastoral Council members Intentionally...

Diversity Matrix for Pastoral Council

How does your Pastoral Council reflect the diversity of the Parish?		Age	Gender	Marital Status	Occupation	Education	Disability	Minority	Language	Other
Male	Female									
Young Adult	Young Professional									
Retired	Working									
Single	Married									
High School	College									
Disability										
Minority										
Language										
Other										

Does your pastoral council reflect the diversity in age, interest, skills, nationality etc. of your parish? Are the members male, female, young professional, retired hospital worker, with and without disabilities, different cultural backgrounds and skills etc.? Many of the minority culture groups will not volunteer to take a seat at the Pastoral Council table because they are not convinced their voices are important. They need to be invited.

See the following Diversity Matrix as a guide to see how you are doing:

<http://www.dor.org/tasks/sites/home/assets/File/Diversity%20Matrix%20for%20Councils.pdf>

This matrix is modeled after one through the Leadership Roundtable Resources. More than 100 Catholic leaders attending the Leadership Roundtable's annual convening in Orlando this past July said the church needs to go beyond "engaging laity" to "appointing, recruiting, promoting and empowering diverse lay leaders." A great place to start is the Pastoral Council where a variety of gifts and backgrounds can bring a vibrancy to the rest of the parish. Study the demographics of your community and seek to fill in those gaps by asking those who are excited about their faith, love the Eucharist and are natural connectors in their circles.

"The future is, most of all, in the hands of those people who recognize the other as a 'you' and themselves as part of an 'us.' We all need each other."

Pope Francis (TED Talk, April 2017)



Pastoral Council Prayers

Opening and Closing prayers for the pastoral councils are sent via emails to the Chairs quarterly, but they can also be accessed on the DOR website at: <http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/pastoral-services/pastoral-councils/> or go to **dor.org**, to **Pastoral Services** to **Pastoral Councils** to **Resources**.