

All ahead full!

In the background over the past couple of months, we have completed the re-organization of our family of parishes and its leadership structures, establishing the Family Finance and Pastoral Councils alongside the Standing Committees to help us focus upon our worship, our mission and ministries, and how we form disciples, alongside our stewardship of our time, talent, and treasure. It has been energizing to pull together staff and lay leadership towards a shared mission. While I think a more formal launch and communication of these will occur towards the end of summer, the organizational documents are posted on our website <https://www.niagarafrontiercatholic.org/> for your perusal.

Additionally, we have begun networking efforts to formally bring together various Catholic entities and community organizations in our area, for we are not only a Family of Parishes making this journey alone but are partnered together as a Catholic Community serving each other in Christ's name. We will be working alongside Mount St. Mary's Hospital, Niagara University, Stella Niagara Center for Renewal, the Barnabites at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine and others to share in our collaborative mission to make disciples. Niagara University helps out the school with internship opportunities and hands on experience and credit bearing classes for their education department and students right on our campus. Syro's, Favorites, Orange Cat, Spicey Pickle, Apple Granny, and Gallo's provide a quality lunch program for our children at the school. The Center for Renewal continuously offers Retreat opportunities and learning workshops to grow in faith. Mount St. Mary's offers various clinics, is re-investing in their facilities and services, and injecting new momentum and energy into community partnerships. The Barnabites continue to be a pilgrimage sight, an oasis of peace, a place to reconnect with God as they assist us in the sacramental and spiritual needs of the people in our area and beyond. Sister Nora continues to help us with the Angel Trees. St. Vincent de Paul has several connections to Heat, Love, and Soul. There are many more... No need to reinvent the wheel here - I look forward to continuing to grow our relationships and the many ways we can help each other.

I am also excited to announce that we are one of only a few parishes in our Diocese who have been selected to partner with the Catholic Parenting Initiative. This cutting-edge initiative, fully funded by the Lilly Grant and based out of Our Lady of Victory Services in Lackawanna, will give us unrivaled access to resources, parenting workshops, enrichment opportunities for learning and practicing the faith, world-class speakers and retreats, opportunities for accompaniment and growing personal, meaningful relationships within our Catholic Community. A particular feature of this will be a parish subscription to the Hallow App, which is the #1 prayer app for Catholics with over 25 million users. Hallow provides opportunities for prayer intentions, prayer challenges, podcasts, etc. that can unite us together in prayer as a church community. Many of our own parishioners already use this on their own and continue to rave about it – I have begun using it for prayer myself. The Catholic Parenting Initiative as a whole is still in its infant stage and based upon our collective input will be fully tailored to our needs. We look forward to connecting our parishioners to the supports we need to grow our discipleship. Lots of exciting things on the horizon. All ahead full.

Peace,

~Fr. Luke