

Suburban Southwest Deanery Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2025, 12:00p
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- The meeting opened with a prayer. Members were asked to share some positive things that have happened since our last meeting. Individuals from St. Bartholemew, St. Columbkille and St. Colette talked about some new programs and activities happening at their parish.
- Fr. Tim hosted a luncheon with the priests of our Deanery. At that meeting it was decided that there would be a Deanery Week of Reconciliation that would be held during Lent. Confessions will be held from 6:30-7:30pm with approximately 12 priests at each site:
 - March 1 - Holy Family, Parma
 - March 2 - St. Albert the Great, North Royalton
 - March 3 - St. Basil the Great, Brecksville
 - March 4 - Diocesan Evening of Penance (5:00-8:00pm) offered at individual parishes
 - March 5 - St. Ambrose, Brunswick
- Deacon Keith provided an update on the meeting with the Assumption Team regarding a website for our Suburban Southwest Deanery. The Diocese is in the process of creating a website and until that occurs, our plan is on hold.
- Rosa Hering indicated they (Assumption) could create a separate page on their site with a private link that our committee could use to share information. Subsequent to the meeting, the Diocese sent an email announcing plans for Deanery emails and a SharePoint site. We will determine next actions after evaluating that plan.
- Deacon Keith discussed the upcoming Assembly Meeting at noon on November 14 at St. Basil the Great. He has been working on the invitation list which will include all clergy, parish staff, school principals, and Catholic organizations within our Deanery (i.e. Veranova Health, TOBCLE). The current invitation list is approximately 186 individuals. The invitation will be sent through Eventbrite. The gathering of the Assembly will occur once or twice a year where we will share what we are doing - a reporting out to our parishioners.
- There was discussion on the agenda.
 - Robert Koonce, Director of Deanery Operations and Planning, will provide a high-level overview of the new organizational structure.
 - The Pastoral Plan will be discussed and the mandatory items that the Diocese has determined will be part of that plan:
 - Marriage preparation - The Diocese is currently in the process of writing the norms. Mentor couples will be walking with couples about to be married.
 - Mass times and Eucharistic Adoration
 - Confessions

- We will implement three to four items in the initial plan. We want to establish camaraderie among parishes and demonstrate it is not more work but will be a benefit. We have resources and expertise to share.
- Fr. Tim has met with all the parishes and their pastors, and they have been involved in the process. In establishing the Deanery, we need to determine how we are evangelizing. We must have Jesus at the foundation of what we are doing. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each parish? It is a process we have been asked to do by the Diocese, and the committee is the conduit to the parishes.
- Tommy Dome (St. Basil) suggested an agenda for the Assembly Meeting:
 1. Welcome
 2. Prayer
 3. Lunch
 4. Introduction of Fr. Tim, Deacon Keith and Robert Koonce
 5. Introduction of Committee (Stand up only)
 6. Testimony by someone on the committee. Need to cast a vision at the beginning so people want to come back
 7. Robert Koonce - Overview
 8. Fr. Tim and Deacon Keith speak
 9. Q&A session with a possible breakout session (optional) for individuals wanting to meet members of the various parishes

The agenda will be finalized in the next few weeks, and Tommy Dome will develop a QR code to collect appropriate data from participants.

- It was recommended that a \$5.00 goodwill donation be requested, and a collection basket be placed out for that purpose.
- Committee members were requested to come at 11:00a to help setup for the meeting.
- St. Bartholomew will host the next meeting sometime in January.
- Fr. Tim closed the meeting with a prayer.