



## **VIA FIDEI MINISTRY**

Discovery Process

Report to the Parish

**OUR LADY OF POMPEII**

*August 3, 2020*

*A summary of the purpose, activities and results of the Discovery Phase of the Via Fidei process at Our Lady of Pompeii parish, Lancaster, NY.*

### **VIA FIDEI MINISTRY: PURPOSE**

To restore the confidence and trust in the Catholic Church by reinvigorating parishes across the diocese of Buffalo, resulting in a vibrancy that reflects the Church Christ calls us to be. As each parish individually, and then collectively, works to repair the fabric of a once dynamic diocese, we seek to recover what was lost and create what is needed to become a force for goodness, beauty, and truth across Western New York.

Resting on our virtues and trust in God, rather than on our laurels, we humbly invite the faithful to participate in their own personal journey of renewal, working with other members of the faith community to heal, recover, and revitalize.

St Anthony: Pray that we find 'The Way'

*Submitted by Deacon John P. Gaulin, Founding Member  
Via Fidei Ministry, Diocese of Buffalo*

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### **PROCESS OVERVIEW**

There are three stages in the Via Fidei process:

- Discovery Phase:
  - Uncovering the needs and opportunities important to the parish and the community
- Solution Phase:
  - Determining how best to address those needs and opportunities
- Implementation Phase:
  - Implementing the approved solutions

Each phase of the process has a number of components, each of which enables us to deepen our understanding, create innovative approaches and efficiently install the selected ideas.

For example, during the Discovery Phase at OLP, we:

- Held two focus group sessions
- Published a parish-wide survey
- Met with the Parish Council and parish staff
- Organized, analyzed and calculated all the data received from all sources and developed ten Focus Areas

### **SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

Focus Groups: 2

Number of FG Participants: 14

Parish Council/Staff: 30

Survey Participants: 192

Number of comments: 873

The comments were analyzed and categorized by content and focus. Sample Categories include (alphabetical):

<u>Positive Attributes</u>		<u>Concerns, Areas for Improvement</u>	
• Community	• Music	• Adult Faith Formation	• Lack of parishioner involvement
• Family	• Pastor, Clergy	• Cliques	• Liturgy
• Homilies	• Programs	• Communication; Lack of information	• No Pastor
• Meets Spiritual Needs	• Sacraments	• Lack of concern for Seniors	• Spiritual Activities
• Ministries	• Staff	• Lack of Outreach	• Traditional liturgy, doctrine, practice
	• Warm and welcoming		

### KEY FOCUS AREAS

Based on the study of the data and using an analysis technique called 'verbal averaging', the following objectives are being considered:

- Becoming a community leader, known for how we live out our Faith, inside and outside the parish
- Making and growing disciples
- Expanding programs and services to Seniors
- Making OLP a more important part of every parishioner's life
- Getting us all, to know us all, better
- Making Faith Formation (at all levels) engaging and attractive
- Supporting our families
- Opening ourselves to all who need us, regardless...
- Providing powerful faith-based experiences: Ministries, Liturgies, etc.
- Communicating more effectively with all parishioners

NEXT STEPS: As we move to close the Discovery Phase and head into the Solution Phase, we are going to have lots of opportunities to participate. Here are two important next steps...

#### Via Fidei Parish Ministry

The whole point of this process is to assist each parish as they take control of their future. In order to transition the process to the parish, we need to create a Via Fidei ministry here at Pompeii. Essentially, this ministry will coordinate and support the initiative and assist the Working Teams as they begin the effort of creating and implementing solutions that will address the Key Focus Areas. This is an opportunity for parishioners looking to find ways to make a significant contribution to the parish. More information will be provided at the Town Hall meeting and on the website (in the near future).

#### Town Hall Meeting

If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, considering being part of the OLP Via Fidei ministry, or just concerned about the parish and would like more information, join us on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the gym. Deacon John and Father Dave will provide a deeper look at this initiative and outline areas where parishioners can get involved. A significant number of people who took the survey, expressed an interest in helping the parish and getting more involved. This is a great opportunity to do just that.

#### One closing point...

OLP was selected as the very first parish in the diocese to participate in this process. We are grateful for the wonderful participation and support thus far, and look forward to inviting more and more parishioners to make our faith community one of service to God, to each other and to our community. As we forge the path, other parishes will benefit from our experience.

The secret to success in this initiative is not a secret... it's you. There is a role for everyone; come join us!