



**OUR LADY OF POMPEII**  
**VIA FIDEI MINISTRY**  
 Parish Update

**Issue #5**

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

- Via Fidei: General Updates
- Via Fidei Steering Team Members
- Via Fidei and the diocesan 'Road to Renewal' Initiative
- Meet the Pastoral Advisory Board

**Via Fidei: General Updates**

We've had a rather busy month, as the October General Information session was postponed to early November. Over forty people attended, either in person or online. As a result of that and previous meetings, over fifty have volunteered to assist with the initiative.

With the Steering Team in place (see below), we officially move out of the analysis phase and into the planning and implementation phases of this initiative. The Steering Team will begin with an orientation session over the next week and then begin to determine the priority areas to address. Once the initial projects are defined, the Working Teams will begin to bring these projects to life.

**Via Fidei Steering Team**

We are so pleased to be able to announce that the following parishioners have accepted the invitation to be part of the Via Fidei Steering Team:

Brian Counihan	Dan Juhasz	Jillian Tylenda	Mike Couche	Monica Pierce
Brian Wild	Dave Zakroczemski	Kimberly Laistner	Mike Janis	Peggy Necel

We are grateful for their generous offer of providing their time and talent to this initiative and look forward with great anticipation to the results of their guidance and direction. **OUR LADY OF POMPEII, PRAY FOR US!**

**Via Fidei & the diocesan 'Road to Renewal' Initiative**

As the diocese continues to explore and develop ways to engage parishes in a collaborative way along the Road to Renewal, some might wonder how this renewal process relates to the Via Fidei initiative. Good question.

Via Fidei is a pastoral ministry formed in February as a restorative and constructive response to the devastating impact of the abuse scandal, followed by the Chapter 11 reorganization to secure more equitable support for survivors, the closing of a seminary and, subsequently, the pandemic. Spearheaded by a team of deacons with complementary skills and experience, it was fully authorized by Bishop Scharfenberger as an important and valuable way of helping pastors and parishioners to work together in refocusing on mission and strengthening communion.

The bishop is well aware and grateful for the work of Via Fidei that has been completed and is planned here at OLP (and at Nativity of Our Lord in Orchard Park). He believes that each approach adds value toward marshaling resources and creating solutions that will benefit us as we seek together to heal from these difficult circumstances and proceed with our Diocesan-wide renewal.

Not only does Via Fidei have the bishop's full support, but he is looking forward to sharing what is learned from the efforts of both pilots as we look to invite more parish families to consider the Via Fidei way to parish healing and growth.

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### **The Pastoral Advisory Board (PAB)**

As was announced last month, we have established a Pastoral Advisory Board. Here is a short bio of each member:

**Trish Casillo** joined her husband Pat as a member of OLP parish in 1991. They have 3 grown children and 6 grandchildren (and #7 in May). Trish has spent 28 years in sales and sales management in the pharmaceutical industry and currently is an Oncology Clinical Sales Rep specializing in Women's Cancer. She holds a MA in Organizational Leadership which will be a great advantage in her role as facilitator of the PAB. Trish has been very active in OLP in ministry to the sick, lector, parish council and children's liturgy. OLP has been her second family and an integral part of her faith formation and has enabled her to live her faith through ministry to others.

**Ricky Blair** has been married to Amy for over 24 years. They have been blessed with 8 beautiful children. Originally from the south, Ricky's job moved him and his family to Buffalo from Arkansas about 11 years ago. The Blairs have been parishioners at Our Lady of Pompeii for nearly four years where they are active in various ministries and always willing to lend a hand. Christ is the center of Ricky's life and that is evident in the way his Faith guides him through all he does with Church, family, and work.

**Annie Kromer** was raised in Depew, NY. She is married to Kurt and they have five children whom they feel called to homeschool. Annie has a degree from Canisius College in Biology & Psychology as well as a degree in Physician Assistant studies from D'Youville College. She currently practices Pediatric and Internal Medicine in Orchard Park as well as serving as a lecturer for the D'Youville College Physician Assistant Program. Annie also has been teaching all genres of dance for over 25 years in WNY. It is a priority in their house to attend Mass together regularly and to pray often. Annie and her family are blessed to be a part of the OLP family and feel that God led them right where they needed to be.

**Bill Maher** is one of seven children, was born in Elma, NY and his mother, Geraldine, instilled in him the heart of Christ to use his talents to serve others, for we are the ambassadors of Christ in the world. Bill was married into Our Lady of Pompeii parish in 1997 when he wed his St Mary's High School sweetheart, Heather. Since then, the good Lord gave them three awesome children: Evan, Mya, and Lila. Bill has been using his talents to help those in his profession as a Dental Technologist for the past 25 years and now owns and operates Blake 410 Dental Studios, LLC here in Western New York. He has the honor of being one of the current Trustees here at OLP with Annette Wargo. Bill is also a Eucharistic Minister and member of the Holy Name Society and looks forward to being part of the PAB!

**Annette Wargo** is married to Lew, who plays guitar in the choir at the 10 a.m. Mass on Sundays. They have nine nieces and nephews and they are Godparents to three of them. She graduated from SUNY at Buffalo with a B.S. degree in Accounting and an M.B.A. in Business Management. Annette works at Forest Lawn Cemetery as Controller/Treasurer. Since joining the parish in 2004, Annette has served on various parish ministries, including Stewardship, Welcome/Open Arms and church decorating. She is a member of the parish's Finance Council and also serves as the parish's co-representative on the Eastern Erie Lay Vicariate Council.

**Christine Wittmeyer** and her parents joined Our Lady of Pompeii three years ago after relocating to Lancaster. She has one older brother who lives in Dallas, TX. Christine grew up in Allegany, NY and has lived in the Buffalo area for the past 10 years. She graduated from Canisius College with a Bachelor of Science in Finance and St. Bonaventure University with a Masters of Business Administration. Christine is a Customer Service Manager at TurboPro Inc., located in Alden, NY. She is a Eucharistic Minister and is excited to become more involved at OLP.