



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

*Issue #6*

*January 10, 2021*

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- What Is Via Fidei and Why should I care?
- Via Fidei Steering Team Members

**What is Via Fidei ... and Why should I care?**

You've been hearing about this thing called '**Via Fidei**' for over six months now, and many parishioners aren't really sure what it is, what it's supposed to do, and if – or how – you should get involved... So, here's a short FAQ to help clarify:

**What is Via Fidei?**

**Via Fidei** is an initiative designed to make the parish stronger, holier and a more important part of every parishioner's life... in real and tangible ways. This is being done through taking a parish-by-parish approach, starting with the needs and desires of parishioners to be the guiding force of what happens and in what order.

The process starts with pastors who agree to actively support the initiative. Then, working with a team of facilitators, the initiative kicks off with getting input and feedback from parishioners. This is called the 'Discovery Phase'. Once completed, this phase is followed up with creating a Steering Team. Their responsibility is to review the data and begin the change process by chartering Working Teams to focus on the priority projects and bring them to life. The results include developing new ministries, programs, processes, or events – all designed to enhance the vibrancy of the parish and engage an ever-larger group of parishioners.

**What is the purpose of this initiative?**

We all know the devastating impact of the abuse scandal, followed by the bankruptcy of the diocese and the closing of the seminary, and then of course the pandemic. The general demeanor of the Catholic faithful in Western New York (along with many other areas), was one of disillusionment, frustration, anger and embarrassment.

Something needed to be done to 'stop the bleeding' and turn the tide. That is, to recover and reinvigorate our faith communities, making them stronger, holier and more vibrant. This is the mission of the **Via Fidei** initiative.

**Where else is this being done?**

Good question. There are two pilot parishes engaged in the **Via Fidei** initiative: OLP and Nativity of Our Lord (Orchard Park). Plans are underway to begin work in 5-10 other parishes, with about 10 more parishes on the waiting list.

### What stage is the initiative in at OLP?

We completed the Discovery Phase over the summer. We met with a number small and large groups, along with the parish staff and Parish Council. We published the parish survey in which almost 200 people participated. The data from all those sources was analyzed and summarized into ten Key Focus Areas.

One of the first actions of the **Via Fidei** initiative was to transform the Parish Council into the Pastoral Advisory Board. The PAB is a group of consultors who work with the pastor (Fr Dave) to discuss, review and decide on important questions and challenges facing the parish.

Following that, the **Via Fidei** Steering Team (VFST) was established and trained. They have been meeting for about a month or so. Their role is to review the data from the Discovery Process, establish priorities and create Working Teams, who take the lead in addressing these priorities. The names of the Steering Team members are listed below. In addition, almost 50 people have volunteered to be on the Working Teams. The first Working Teams should launch in January.

### What does “Via Fidei” mean, anyway?

**Via Fidei** is the Latin phrase for ‘the Way of Faith’. The early Christians committed themselves to ‘The Way’, which led to faith communities with a deep commitment to the Way of Christ. We want to recover that passion for the faith and inspire people who have centered their lives on Christ and His teaching.

### Why should I get involved?

The parish survey that was done over the summer told us that there are many parishioners who want to be involved in a parish ministry or activity, but are not. This is an opportunity to do valuable work for the parish in brand new ministries or teams. It gives everyone – you and your fellow parishioners – an opportunity to share your gifts and talents to strengthen the vitality of our faith community – and use the skills God gave you to help spread His mercy and love. It’s also an opportunity to meet new people and to grow in your own faith.

When you volunteer, we place your name in our Volunteer Database. Once a team charter has been developed by the VFST, we send an email inviting all volunteers to let us know if they are interested in working on that specific project. All those interested are invited to an orientation meeting, and the project begins from there.

### How can I get involved?

There are many ways to let us know you’d like to help:

- Download the form on our website, complete it, and email it back. Here’s the link: [https://www.olpparish.com/uploads/3/2/2/5/32258261/volunteer\\_registration\\_form\\_--\\_our\\_lady\\_of\\_pompeii\\_-\\_via\\_fidei\\_ministry-1.pdf](https://www.olpparish.com/uploads/3/2/2/5/32258261/volunteer_registration_form_--_our_lady_of_pompeii_-_via_fidei_ministry-1.pdf)
- Call the office and let them know you’d like to get involved: 683-6522
- Email Deacon John at [deaconjpg@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjpg@gmail.com)

---

#### **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:

Dan Juhasz	Jillian Tylenda	Brian Wild	Monica Pierce
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!***

---