



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

**Issue #3**

**October 4, 2020**

**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.

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**Parish Council Meeting**

On Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, we met with the Parish Council to discuss the next steps in the Via Fidei initiative.

The Council was presented with a more detailed review of the nature of this initiative and the role that OLP is playing in the context of the broader plan for all parishes in the diocese. There was a detailed review of the Via Fidei Parish Ministry – roles, responsibilities, structure, etc. In addition, there was a general discussion regarding the leadership groups of the parish and their roles as this initiative begins to take shape.

There was a general appreciation that if we want to do things differently, that some things will need to change. How, what and when will be the topic of the continuing dialog with Father, Betsy, the Council and others.

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**Via Fidei Parish Ministry: Overview Meeting** (scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:00PM)

In order for us to make this process our own, the next major activity is for OLP to establish its own Via Fidei ministry. The members of this ministry will work with Father and Betsy to take the lead in determining the focus of this effort for the parish as we work recreate what we mean by ‘Church’ here at OLP.

It’s an exciting time for the parish, and a really important one. Probably not since the founding of the parish, over 100 years ago, have we been in the position to realign our direction and efforts, recommitting to the mission Christ

gave us so long ago.

As you know, a good amount of work has been done to set the foundation, but now we need people 'gifted and called' to take us into the future. The Via Fidei Parish Ministry will take the lead in assessing the issues, determining priorities, establishing working teams and guiding the work effort.

We will hold a general information meeting for the parish on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> (7:00PM, in the Aud) to provide all those interested with a clearer understanding of purpose and approach of this ministry. More details will be provided a few weeks before the meeting.

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### **Low Hanging Fruit Tasks**

As you know well, the data gathering process yielded many valuable insights about where to focus our efforts as we recraft ourselves as a parish family. Many ideas were similar and became the basis of what we refer to as the Key Focus Areas. These typically are larger efforts that will take some time and effort to complete.

Other recommendations, however, were less demanding from a time and effort standpoint. We call these 'Low Hanging Fruit' tasks, meaning that they are relatively simple to implement. Similar to a 'punch list' for a house, these are ideas that will not take extended effort to put in place. It would be helpful to have a small group to tackle these tasks and get them completed quickly.

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### **Next Steps**

As should always be the case, any major work should begin with prayer, and we invite you to pray for the future of OLP, for Father Dave, the Parish Council, the Staff and all those in leadership positions in our parish. In addition, let's pray that we, along with many of our fellow parishioners, will respond to the call to be part of building the future of our Faith Community. There is a role for everyone, and every role starts with prayer.

From an activity perspective, the next two major events are:

- **Tuesday, October 13** (7:00, in the Aud): OLP Via Fidei Ministry information session
- **Via Fidei Parish Ministry: Selection and Orientation** – October, TBD

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**Our Lady of Pompeii, pray for us!  
St. Anthony, pray that we find The Way!**