



OUR LADY OF POMPEII
VIA FIDEI MINISTRY
Parish Update

Issue #2

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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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Town Hall Meeting

On Thursday, August 11th, we held a parish townhall meeting to share with the parish all that was learned as part of the Discovery Phase of the Via Fidei initiative.

A review of the results from both Focus Groups, the session with the Parish Council and Parish Staff, along with the data from the Parish Survey were reviewed in some detail. Following that, we provided an overview of the analysis process, which led to the identification of ten Key Focus Areas. The Focus Areas were reviewed so that participants understood how the results received led to these priorities.

The ten Key Focus Areas are:

- 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, Programs, etc.
 - Communicating more effectively with all parishioners
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Parish Via Fidei (VF) Ministry

In order for us to make this process our own, the next major activity is for OLP to establish its own Via Fidei ministry. This ministry would take the lead in the following areas:

- Determine which Key Focus Areas to begin with (probably 2-3)
- Help to establish the Solution Design Working Teams
- Coordinate with Fr Dave and Betsy to select the best solutions to address the priority focus areas
- Help to establish the Implementation Working Teams
- Serve as the Steering Committee for the Implementation process, monitoring and coordinating all initiatives (again, in cooperation with Fr Dave, Betsy)
- After the first wave of projects is completed, continue the VF process within the parish to ensure that we remain focused and effective in our mission to 'make disciples'
- Be the interface with other parish VF ministries, especially in our local area, identifying synergies, opportunities to share resources, ideas and challenges
- Keep the parish informed of focus, progress, next steps

We will be meeting with Parish Council in September to more fully flesh out the Via Fidei parish ministry and discuss these ideas in more detail. Following that, we will hold a general information meeting for the parish on Tuesday, October 13 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.

Solution Design Working Teams

Sometime in October, we will begin inviting those interested to be part of the developing solutions for the (2-3) initial Key Focus Areas. Team members will be on the front line of creating new ways to address the most important challenges facing the parish. We will be looking to blend best practices from successful parishes across the country, along with designing unique and powerful solutions, customized to meet the distinctive needs of our parish.

Because this is such a central activity, we'd like the make up of these teams to reflect the personality of our parish – from those who've been around to those just joining; newly weds to young families to grandparents; those with ministry experience to those interested in helping out.

This is where this initiative starts to get exciting, and we'd love to have you as a part of it!

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, and the Parish Council and Staff. 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:

- **Monday, September 14:** Meeting with Parish Council/Staff
- **Tuesday, October 13:** OLP Via Fidei Ministry information session

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