

Family of Parishes (FoP) Pastoral Council

January 15, 2025

In attendance: Fr. Satish Joseph, Jim Boian, Vicky Rauch, Clive Benjamin, Bill Hibner, Angie Buechele, Don Reimer, Therese Baker, Mel McWilliams, Denise Young, Vince Miller, Enrique Acuna, Bryon Betsinger, James Walters, Antonio Crespo, Nate Brinkman, Betty Borgerding, Deb Bauer, Severa Mwiza

Unable to attend: Fr. Len Wenke, Fr. Uriel Santos, Christine Walters, Alana Campion, Brandon Meyer, Maria Russell, Ed McGarry, Mary Alice Ordonez, Geoff Holmes

Not present: Carlos Soto, Virginia Matis, Brian Heitkamp, Bonnie Doepker, Kevin Weckesser, Maria Eloy

Opened with prayer.

1. Fr. Satish reiterated the concept of “Catholic Presence” and how it was beginning to have an impact within the Family of Parishes.” By Catholic presence is meant that we make a conscious effort to promote our five campuses as viable Catholic presence in the neighborhoods in which they are located. If a parish is closed it is a loss for Catholicism as a whole. So, we try our best to ensure that every campus is a sure sign of Catholic presence in the neighborhood. At the very beginning of the Beacons of Light process, Fr. Satish had put this concept forward and as he looks back at it, it was an inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The financial needs of parishes have to be met, and we should make that this can happen in each campus. Fr. Satish feels that people are beginning to connect with “Catholic presence.”
2. The Family of Parishes logo has been finalized for Bread of Life / Pan de Vida FoP.
3. A New bulletin company has been chosen after much deliberation and interviews with various companies. Change will occur in May 2025. The new company is Diocesan, Dublin OH.
4. The Worship Commission presented a Holy Week Schedule for our FoP. The Triduum consists of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil. In keeping with the prescribed rubrics, the Triduum, even though celebrated over three days, is one celebration. For e.g., we make the sign of the cross as we begin Mass on Holy Thursday and the celebration only ends with solemn blessing at Easter Vigil. It calls for the Triduum to be celebrated with dignity, smaller communities coming together to form one community, and capturing the solemnity of the sacred celebrations. Holy Thursday is also the Feast of Priesthood and it calls that a priest have the chance to celebrate this well without spreading himself thin offering multiple Masses at various locations. Hence, the Family of Parishes Worship Commission recommends to Fr. Satish the celebration of one bilingual celebration offered in a facility that can accommodate a larger community. The Worship Commission is working to bring traditions from various parishes together to enhance the Holy Week liturgies. Even though the official liturgies will be celebrated at one location, other campuses will offer Holy Thursday Eucharistic adoration, Good Friday Way of the Cross, Taizé prayer service and Holy Saturday Morning prayers at individual campuses. In this sense, every campus will have people gather for one event or another.
5. In the future, some form of Mass schedule change is anticipated. We have our challenges. Fr. Uriel will be reassigned at the end of June. July 1, 2025 we hope to have a new Spanish speaking priest joining us who is not bilingual. Fr. Len will be retiring at the end of next fiscal year, June 2026. When Fr. Len retires most likely we will not get a replacement. There was some talk of what future mass schedules may look like. The current mass schedule is possible because there are retired priests able to help. Christmas schedule was exhausting for priests. But we can anticipate some form of schedule adjustment. But every campus will have at least one Mass a weekend either in English or Spanish.
6. Fr. Satish shared the news of a new ministry he has begun as a personal initiative. After much prayer, conversation with Archbishop Schnurr, and many parish families from throughout our Family of Parishes Fr. Satish has begun a new ministry called, “For the Pastoral Care of LGBTQ Catholics.” It is a ministry to minister to those who feel alienated from the Catholic church because of their sexual orientation or gender identity or feel unwelcomed in a Catholic parish for the same reason. The initiative also offers support to family members of Catholics who feel conflicted between their family members and the Church. The group gathers once in two months for prayer and fellowship, and to offer mutual support. The Family of Parishes Pastoral Council offered words of support, appreciation, and thanks to Fr. Satish for taking the initiative.



A Visioning Committee is being appointed. Fr. Satish will meet with them and perimeters will be shared for a vision statement to be developed.