

COLLABORATIVE CHATTER

JULY 2017

PASTORAL UPDATE

We would like to use this letter as an opportunity to update you on the progress of the Vineland Catholic Collaborative (VCC). As you will recall, the VCC is a gathering of three individuals from each parish -- Divine Mercy, St. Padre Pio and Christ the Good Shepherd to take a look at how we can together share ministries and resources.

The Bishop has charged us with focusing on a five year plan. We are very encouraged by the enrollment for this year's summer intensive religious education program -- a true collaborative effort.

If you have any questions as we move along in this process, please ask us directly so that we can address your concerns.

Please keep all of us in your prayers as we work to effectively plan our future.

Fr. Joel Arciga Camarillo
Msgr. John Burton
Fr. Robert Sinatra



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- To date, we have formed three separate sub-committees - finance, operations and ministry.
- Jointly the parishes have hired Felicia Navarro to coordinate lifelong faith formation.
- We have identified the need for a youth minister. Proper planning will be needed to ensure the success of this position.
- The Collaborative has discussed the possibility of enlisting help from parish volunteers to assist with development and improving communication through technology such as a website, Facebook and Twitter.
- The Collaborative reviewed the outreach ministries in Vineland and found ministries can be bridged to bring the community together, ie community barbecues, group confirmation, retreats, etc.
- The financial sub-committee is requesting more data from the Diocesan finance office in terms of budget information for current fiscal year to compare with previous budgets. The deadline for an updated proposal draft remains open at this time, however, constant communication and feedback exists between VCC and the diocesan pastoral planning staff.

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE



- Q. Why was the VCC formed?
- A. Bishop Sullivan asked our three Vineland parishes to enter into a planning process to examine the pastoral and temporal data of the parishes and consider how we are providing ministry to Catholics and to the wider Vineland community.

- Q. How often does the group meet?
- A. The full group has been meeting at least once a month since Spring 2016. The three pastors meet more frequently.

- Q. Is the diocese telling the group what to do?
- A. No. Personnel from the diocese have attended some of our meetings and provided suggestions, but they do not tell us what to do. As an example, the diocese has requested that mass counts be conducted over the next several months to see where there are fluctuations. They also recommended that improved communication about the process be provided to parishioners.

- Q. What have been some of the accomplishments so far?
- A. A Director of Lifelong Faith Formation has been hired and her duties are being monitored. A joint Christmas concert was held. The summer intensive religious education has been successful.

- Q. Is this a merger?
- A. No. The purpose of the collaborative is to strengthen the identity of the Catholic community in Vineland.

- Q. If the parishes share services, what would they be?
- A. We have analyzed the current staffing at each parish and some discussion has been had regarding sharing of parish priests so that each parish gets familiar with the other pastors.

- Q. Each parish has its own unique cultural differences. Has the VCC taken this into consideration?
- A. Culturally based ministries will remain intact and shared where feasible. The group has had numerous conversations about trying to preserve the individual cultural identities of each parish.

<i>Summer Intensive Headcount</i>	
<i>136 families</i>	
<i>197 children</i>	
<i>69</i>	<i>Padre Pio</i>
<i>31</i>	<i>Christ the Good Sheppard</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Divine Mercy</i>
<i>29</i>	<i>Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>unknown</i>