

Roman Catholic Community of Western Broome County
Pastoral Care Area Newsletter 06/12/2022

In February 2022 our local Pastoral Care Area (PCA) teams presented their initial recommendations to our parish communities through a series of three Town Hall meetings. In addition to the presentations, each meeting allotted time for Questions and Answers (Q&As) with Fr. Ken Kirkman. Each meeting was recorded and posted to our parish websites. What follows in this newsletter are some of the questions that Fr. Ken answered in regards to our **Communications, Catholic Schools** and **Demographics**. Although this is the final Town Hall Q&A newsletter please continue to look for additional newsletters on other topics in the future.

Communications

A2) Can our churches provide more televised masses?

Yes that is a plan, but in some cases we may need to upgrade our equipment. For instance some masses at St. Anthony's and St. Joe's were streamed from Fr. Ken's smart-phone vs a dedicated camera system.

C2) Can parishes have video-streaming at a live Mass from our other parishes, pause the local video at Communion, then restart after Communion?

This may get a little too technical; we will be doing our best to be sure that Mass will be live streamed for whichever parish Mass is being celebrated.

A14) How do you plan on communicating with those who may not be tech savvy and/or use a computer?

Unfortunately there isn't a one-stop shop to communicate with everyone. Phone calls and direct mailings, plus the parish bulletins, would be the most likely way to communicate with those who don't use a computer and/or smartphone.

B1, C18) Will this presentation be available on each church's website?

Yes, the presentations and recorded video can be found here:

- February 8th at St. Anthony's: <https://northendcatholic.org> and the video is at <https://www.facebook.com/stanthonyendcottny/videos/622476982191871>
- February 16th at Our Lady of Good Counsel: <https://olgcendcott.org/information-from-town-hall-meeting-broome-county-february-2022/> and the video is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4Ef1kwO0vw>
- February 24th at Church of the Holy Family: Both the presentations and the video is at <https://holyfamilyendwell.com/western-broome-2022-town-hall-meeting/>

Catholic Schools and Colleges

A3) Can we look for ways to be more welcoming to area college students to attend mass? They often fall away during college.

This is a great observation and something that our Youth Leadership Committee will be working on. However this has been a problem for a long time and we are open to any ideas on this topic.

A11) How do Catholic Schools of Broome County fit into our PCA planning?

Catholic Schools of Broome County are not directly affiliated with the parishes, they are administered under their own umbrella organization. However they are an important part of our community, but they would not be affected by this PCA process.

A13) How can we utilize Broome County Catholic Schools to obtain more candidates for the priesthood?

Fr. Ken is on the vocation team for the Dioceses, he is the official representative to the Catholic Schools of Broome County. During the spring he is looking forward to visiting our local catholic schools. In addition there was a local St. Andrews dinner for young men interested in finding out more about priestly life. We also send young men to Syracuse for the Fishermans Club run by Fr. Nate Brooks and he hosted virtual discernment retreats in the Dioceses. We hope to continue partnering with our Catholic Schools to identify and help young men discern the priesthood. It is ultimately God's decision in which a man would choose to cooperate.

B6) Have you made any efforts at the two local colleges? Is there still a Mass being offered at BU?

Yes, there is still a Mass being offered at BU, it is Sunday evening at 5pm. That is covered by the priests in another PCA like Monsignor Maher and Fr. Donovan. We are continuing to work on efforts of vocation promotions in the colleges and we have two men from the Binghamton area who are attending the adult discernment group which is run in Syracuse by Fr. Hage and Fr. Brooks from the Diocesan Vocations office, so we are gaining some ground there; to have two guys who are willing to drive to Syracuse once a month to take part in active discernment for a priestly vocation is encouraging. A couple of years ago there were none from Binghamton. Hopefully, that is a sign of some progress.

C17) What has the youth participation been like so far?

We do have a new PCA youth committee which some of our youth have been involved with. There's a lot of energy there so now our focus should be on encouraging young men and women to take an active role in their parishes, and then from there to see if they would want to be involved in this PCA process as we plan for the future.

Demographics

C14) Has the census been performed to determine the percentage of people in specific age groups per church?

No. That is an involved process that wouldn't necessarily be a bad step but as of right now, no we don't have census numbers on the specific age groups of parishioners.

C19) Do we have the number of youth in each of the parishes?

We don't have an exact number but what we do have are the number of children in our religious education programs, there are over 500 kids in our six programs right now.

May God Bless us as we move into the future

*Fr. Clarence Rumble, Fr. Ken Kirkman, Fr. John Donovan
and the PCA Leadership Council of the Roman Catholic
Community of Western Broome.*