

ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI



BEACONS *of* LIGHT

— *Year 3* —

Family Pathway Report

F A L L 2 0 2 5

BREAD OF LIFE / PAN DE VIDA

HOLY ANGELS, OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ST. ANTHONY, ST. HELEN, ST. MARY



Dear Parishioners,

I am writing to update you on our Family of Parishes. In accessing the current phase the Bread of Life / Pan de Vida Family of Parishes with our parish leaders (Family of Parishes Pastoral Council and the Beacons of Light Family Leadership Team) it has been determined we are on track for becoming one Canonical entity. Over the last three years we have been gradually moving towards canonical unity and now it is time to take concrete steps. Yes, there will still be challenges that lie ahead but our goal is to move from maintenance to mission.

Please continue to pray for guidance and wisdom for our leadership.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Satish Joseph, Pastor



SECTION 2

ANNUAL PLAN REPORT SUMMARY

Highlights and Successes

One of our biggest highlights is with the combined Family of Parishes Parish Council. It has given leaders within the individual parishes the opportunity to meet each other, share their concerns, and to realize the reality of moving forward in the Beacons of Light process.

The staff too have had the opportunity at retreats and Christmas parties to get to know each other a bit more.

Currently participation at Mass is stable or increased.

For more successes, please see the individual Beacons of Light principles listed below.



Observations

There is one question that often comes up...what does it mean to be "Church"?

Church is not a physical building. It is universal, embracing all people wherever they are in their faith journey. It is Christ centered welcoming all to be disciples and extending our mission to not only our communities but throughout the world. Being Church means celebrating the Eucharist (Mass), preparing people for sacraments and offering the sacraments, having the option of faith formation programs for both children and adults, and opportunities for the disciples within your congregation to live their faith through action.



Challenges

-One of our challenges has been getting people on board with the Beacons of Light process.

-Another challenge for our parishioners is facing reality. All our parishes have changed and are not the communities of yesteryears. Change is difficult and sometimes unwanted yet change still happens. We can be a part of accepting the change and embracing it or we can fight it all the way and find ourselves on the outskirts instead of participating in the opportunities change can bring, missing out on the vibrant future we can create together.

-Financially our parishes are from one end of the spectrum to the other. Some parishes are struggling and some have savings available.

-Staffing varies greatly in our Family of Parishes also. Some have minimal staff; others are well staffed.

-Facilities are another challenge. All of the buildings in our Family of Parishes are older. Some of our buildings have years of deferred maintenance. Some are in decent shape needing only to keep up with the maintenance required on aging buildings.

Insights

While we are on track for becoming one Canonical entity it will take some time to get things in order. There are quite a few items that will need to be addressed as we prepare to move to one entity.

Staffing, data bases and financial accounting are the three biggest items to be figured out. There will be evaluations on programs, processes, resources and our facilities. We will also be tasked to utilize our resources for moving from maintenance to mission.

Our schools will remain operating for the most part, the way they do today due to state funding.

We will continue to look for opportunities to collaborate in both church and school.



The vision your Family has discerned during Phase 2





By coming together, we can have more vibrant celebrations than we can have as individual parishes. Examples of this would be the Easter Vigil, Confirmation Mass and Reconciliation services. In working together, we can provide quality programs for our parishioners without duplicating efforts. Together we will focus on enhancing our faith communities for years to come.

Our new vision statement:

Bread of Life/Pan de Vida Family of Parishes Vision Statement 2026

The Bread of Life/Pan de Vida Family of Parishes is a welcoming and inclusive Catholic community that exemplifies the Love of Christ. Through worship, discipleship, education, outreach and active neighborhood presence, we seek the Reign of God to transform hearts, enrich lives and unite all in faith and fellowship.

We strive to reach this Vision, which is rooted in our Catholic Faith, by focusing on the following goals/objectives:

-  Be the “Catholic Presence” in our neighborhoods and for the local communities.
-  Aspire to become the One Body of Christ by fostering an environment of unity in diversity; embracing multicultural and multilingual expressions of faith that unites all to worship and grow.
-  Strive towards Christian discipleship through prayer, sacraments, education, loving service and stewardship.
-  Seek to cultivate a community where every person is valued, seen and empowered to live a life that contributes to the Life of the Church and the Mission of Christ.

Pastoral Planning Principles - Progress and Plan



EUCHARIST

- Mass schedule has been adjusted to meet the number of priests, the number of people, and the liturgical and staff resources available.
- Important liturgies were either held in common (Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Feast of Guadalupe for Spanish, and Triduum, Confirmation, First Reconciliation for English), or in a way that facilitates the coming together of our communities for holydays and feast days.
- Baptism, Funeral, and Wedding programs are now coordinated in a way that facilitates easier organization.
- Wedding preparation mentoring program that helps prepare couples for marriages from the five parishes have been established.
- Our choirs have come together for larger liturgies, and they have been successful endeavors. Our choir directors meet to develop common repertoire for Advent and Lent.



CHURCH

- We have a bilingual common name that has been chosen after wide input.
- We share a common bilingual bulletin between the five parishes. A common website is in the works.
- A mission statement has been developed by the vision subcommittee that included a rep from each parish. The mission statement evolved out of how we experience each other's parish communities.
- A Family of Parishes Picnic has replaced the individual picnics and has been very successful.
- Shared reconciliation and adoration opportunities.
- Annual Family of Parishes retreats offered in both English and Spanish.
- Common adult Confirmation Formation and sacrament held in the fall each year.
- Marriage mentor couple training conducted to prepare couples for marriage.
- Immigration resources offered for the immigrant and refugee communities.



LEADERSHIP

- A common pastoral council represented by all the five parishes and the Hispanic Community is in place.
- A Beacons of Light Pathway team was established and in Jan 2026 expanded to include a member from each parish. This group is advisory to the pastor.
- Bread of Life Parish leadership retreats and Parish retreats for 2/3 years have facilitated a sense of common future and common mission.
- Shared Principal for two of our schools.
- Shared Preschool Director for two locations.
- Resource sharing between schools has begun (ELL programs, Pre-school) All schools now use the same religious education books along with the parish religious education programs where possible.
- A common calendar for our three schools has been developed.
- We are one step away from all our school staff being on the same salary scale.



STEWARDSHIP

- General awareness of the Family of Parishes financial needs.
- Deliberate efforts are being made by some parishes to improve their financial situation.
- All parish locations use the same format for the end of the year annual parish report.



EVANGELIZATION

- Any religious education program can be accessed by any parishioners of our parishes.
- There is a Hispanic Committee for Common Spanish celebrations and a Rwandan Committee for Rwandan Masses and events.
- Combined OCIA program for our Family of Parishes.
- Combined Lent & Advent reconciliation services.



LOVE IN ACTION

- Love in Action Committee, commonly known as the Social Justice Committee, was established and has representatives from multiple parishes.
- The immigrants' solidarity walk was organized by the committee in cooperation with UD and area agencies.
- Third year an Adult ELL program has been offered in which members of all the parishes serve as facilitators.

- Pantry programs help families with food insecurity.
- Sharing valuable information to help families in cooperation with Able Advocates.

