

ACC Updates

We had our second Area Catholic Community planning council session last week and went through a fairly lengthy discussion on a couple important topics. The biggest and most immediate question was what are we going to call our ACC. Having a common name helps us to begin the process of forming a unique and deliberate community that can be more than just the sum of its parts. It can help us identify as part of a larger group and recognize that we are all in this together. Once we have that name, we can also begin looking at things like a common website at that domain name, or even how it might be incorporated into the bulletins.

While we talked about a number of different options, it came down to a discussion between two different philosophical approaches: whether we are naming this like a parish or more generally as a regional entity. Both options have their positives and negatives. We are familiar with the desire to invoke the intercession of the saints and angels. We do this for parishes and even our own names and the names of our children (whether in baptism or confirmation). It is more directly tied with our identity than a broader, more generic name could be. But we ultimately decided that we are not naming a new parish and calling our ACC like a parish might create more confusion and consternation among the people.

We decided that going with a more regional name makes the most sense at this time and tasked the group with refocusing on this topic for the next meeting. (If you have thoughts to share with your ACC planning council members, feel free to do so!) By mid-August we hope to finalize a name for the ACC that we can all live with and then begin looking at possibilities for logos and other branding opportunities.

The other main topic of the meeting was on ways to bring our communities together. One direct way is to have joint Masses for the whole group. We are planning on implementing that for some of the Holy Days or other celebrations coming up yet this year. Thanksgiving Day is a good example for this. Fr. LeRoy and I can join together and concelebrate the Mass at one location and give people from all the parishes the opportunity to come and pray together in one place. It is a great chance to intermingle and give thanks for the individual gifts we have received and how when we share them with others, we all benefit more.

Please plan on joining us for these upcoming ACC Masses:

All Souls' Day: 9:00 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 2nd at the Church of St. Joseph

Thanksgiving Day: 9:00 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 28th at the Church of St. Peter

Immaculate Conception: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9th at the Church of St. Michael

Mary, Mother of God: 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1st at the Church of St. Paul