

# MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

September 2017

Submitted by Father Thomas Mueller and Joseph Kormos

The Diocesan Mission Committee includes Gator Greenwill and Erik Hjelle and Frs. Joel Weir, Joel Wilson, Elijah Mueller and Chris Maciolek. Fr. Thomas Mueller is Mission Director. Joe Kormos is facilitator and consultant to the committee.

## Past Efforts

To briefly review past (pre October 2016) efforts the Mission Committee has

- Created a set of new mission guidelines and summarized a list of good practices,
- Conducted a mission school review webinar
- Reviewed mission practices of other Dioceses.

## Efforts since October 2016 (Last report)

### Committee Focus

Since the last Diocesan Assembly the primary points of discussion of this committee have included how to:

- Establish a renewed sense of Mission within the Diocese
- Assist/accelerate the development of existing Missions.
- Become more intentional in mission planting and to make better decisions about Mission locations.
- Repurpose select existing parishes as missions – ala Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Detroit.

### Grants

Cash grants were/will be provided in December to mission priests. Financial support is also provided by the Diocese and the Detroit deanery and its parishes to Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral Detroit as part of re-purposing the Cathedral for mission.

### Peer Group Webinar

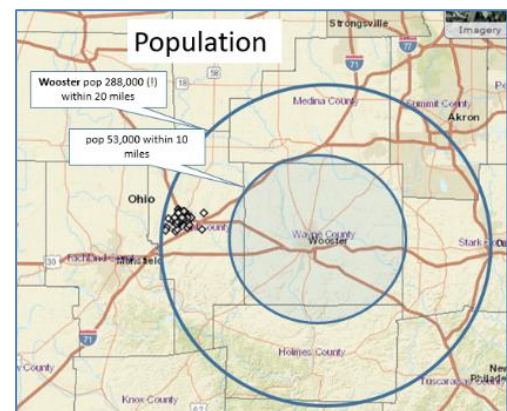
A webinar discussing the life of Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Mission, St. James MO was hosted by Fr. Joel Wilson. Purpose was to receive suggestions and feedback from attendees. Similar sessions will likely occur in the future.

### Mission School

The Diocese has now sent, at OCA expense, three clergy and three lay persons to the OCA Mission School. We continue to explore how to make good use of this investment to help all Diocesan missions.

### Demographic Study

In 2017 Bishop Paul received a request to consider planting a mission in or near Wooster OH. The mission committee reviewed the request and conducted a population/demographic study of Wooster and an alternative location of Ashland OH. Wooster was found to have many positive qualities however due to current lack of a core group and lack of a priest available for exploration no action is planned at this time.



Excerpt from demographic study

Delegate Book

The approach used in this study will become a template for future reviews of other potential mission locations.

### **Potential Mission Location Recommendations from Deaneries**

As part of an effort to engage deaneries in the collaborative work of planting and assisting missions, Bishop Paul has requested each deanery to identify possible areas that could be the focus for future mission efforts. The mission committee will receive those recommendations and undertake preliminary explorations.

### **Small Parish Forum**

The Diocese once again co-sponsored the fourth annual Small Parish Forum. The event has grown in attendance and quality each year. In 2017, the theme was “Becoming a Community of Engagement”. The Forum was attended by 72 persons with others turned away due to lack of space. Janet Damian Lapko and Sub-deacon Matt McCroskery, both of Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Detroit, Fr Jonathan Proctor Holy Trinity Church St Paul MN and Fr. Joshua Friggerio of Holy Ascension Church Albion MI were among the twelve speakers. Attendees from the Diocese received free tuition and financial assistance with hotel costs.

The 2018 Forum will be held July 12-14 at St. George Cathedral, in Rossford OH.

### BECOMING A COMMUNITY OF ENGAGEMENT

