

Something to Know

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At the meeting, we walked the attendees through our progress in the Beacons of Light, most of which we shared with Jeremy and Deacon Mike from the office of Vitality, which is overseeing the process of Beacons of Light (BOL) **on July 17, 2025**, when they visited the FLT. We highlighted on the Five Phases of the beacons's and our Family of Parishes (FOP) progresss and our results - our fully functional Leader groups: Combined Pastoral Council, Family Leadership Team, shared staff with redefined roles/functions, Commissions and directors for Worship, Stewardship & Love in Action, and Evangelization; Our living vision statement which appears in bulletin, recited at every mass; Creation of core values (Eucharist, Prayer, Relationship with Jesus, Foster trust and truth, and being guided by the Holy Spirit in all that we do) as part of establishing an ecclesial culture. FOP continued formation in response to our call to mission and discipleship was facilitated through Radiate Christ, a series of four video sets presented in four different locations during Lent 2025.

We then spoke to our upcoming BOL activities:

- Annual Gather Together Picnic in September, which was well attended above expectations. Thank you to all who attended and helped plan the event. We pray for those who were unable to attend, and God willing, will be able to do so in our next event.
- Amazing Parish Sessions on Prayer Evangelization and Discipleship (3 of 11 that most align with our vision and core values) in Sept - Oct - Nov at 3 FOP church sites. Will also include a parishioner from each church teaming with a leadership team member to present the topic and lead the discussion
- Together Weekend 9/13 and 9/14 (cards, invitations, and hospitality)
- Archbishop Casey's Deanery Visits with FOP leaders- ours at St Emmanuel Deanery on 10/8

We reminded everyone of the next phase, Planning, where family leaders collaborate on strategic Planning that identifies the work, resources, and requirements needed to achieve our FOP vision and support our core values and family culture.

As part of moving forward, Father Francis introduced the concept of the combined Financial Council (similar to how we did with Pastoral Council), and we will combine

- Each current Finance Committee will nominate three representatives by 8/31/25
- 9/15 at St Benedict, the Combined Finance Council will meet
- This will help the Parishes' Financial Committee come together to discuss and plan for the future of FOP and Financial resources.
- I reiterate that the money of each current parish is not being combined (Representatives of each parish will represent the parish matters, and the newly combined group will support and facilitate the needs of all FOP)

I must point out that I appreciated all the questions that came up, thoughtful, engaged, and forward-thinking (focused on "how" to do this, not "why"). All in all, not a "blind" or "just go along" response. Instead, almost everyone who spoke seemed focused on the task at hand and what they needed to do. I pray that we continue to work together in that spirit of openness.

Finally, I presented the findings, which indicate that our experiences, including feedback from parishioners who wish to retain their names, support "merger" as the most suitable option according to consensus, for our FOP to form a canonical parish during the BOL process.

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