



2025 Annual Report

**Western Vicariate
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Western Vicariate of the
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

September 2025

Dear Brother Priests, dear Deacons, and dear Coworkers in the Lord's Vineyard,

Having completed a second year in our effort to implement and live out our Archbishop's goal to decentralize curial ministries and services, which are intended to support pastors and parish staff, in order that the resources you need may be more readily accessible and more effectively responsive to you, we deem it appropriate and timely to again provide an accounting of our efforts.

In short, the implementation of vicariate-based ministry continues to be a work in progress. This is the case even though the working relationship between our staff and many parish staffs have become strengthened and even though we have seen significant fruit borne from these collaborative efforts.

I continue to be edified by the dedication and enthusiasm that our Western Vicariate staff bring to their work. Please be assured that we understand our collective role to be that of supporting you in the work of the Church that takes place in your parishes -- the sacred places where the vast majority of the Christian Faithful seek to encounter the Lord and find fellowship and communion in the Body of Christ.

We will continue to make every effort to reach out to you during the coming year, to continue to learn of the great things that are happening in your parishes and to hear also what unmet or new needs and wants you may have for which we may be able to provide support and assistance. Please don't ever hesitate to reach out to us in this regard either. It's why we're here!

The summary information that follows is intended to serve again this year as a gesture of accountability on our part for the stewardship that supports our efforts.

Be assured of my prayers that the remainder of this summer will afford you a worthy opportunity for rest and reinvigoration so that all of our combined efforts will effectively advance all that He wills for His faithful.

Blessings,



Very Reverend John A. Brockland, JCL, JV, VE
Episcopal Vicar

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- 1) Ongoing effort since the outset to identify, obtain, and equip permanent vicariate office space resulting now in the intent to purchase the former St. Robert Bellarmine rectory
- 2) Ongoing direction and support for staff members and vicariate liaisons based on the Archbishop's vision that curial ministries and services which support parishes, pastors, and parish staff be decentralized to better and more effectively support and enhance parish life particularly in the areas of evangelization and social outreach.
- 3) Exploration of possibility to expand Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry Staff with interns from Augustine Institute and/or seminarians from Kenrick-Glennon.
- 4) Provided counsel, as requested or needed, to pastors involved in parish subsumption as pending appeals are resolved and to pastors engaged in leading multiple parishes for the first time.
- 5) Provided counsel, as requested or needed, to parochial administrators leading parishes for the first time.
- 6) Provided counsel, as requested or needed, to pastors regarding personnel issues related to parish and school staffing
- 7) Provided pastors/priests support and counsel, as requested or needed, regarding clergy personnel matters or the receipt of negative correspondence
- 8) Provided substitute sacramental assistance, as needed or requested, when priests have been ill or away from the parish for vacation or retreat.
- 9) Presided at 12 celebrations of the Rite of Installation of a Pastor
- 10) Conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation for children at 7 parishes
- 11) Provided counsel to pastors, reviewed the intended scope of work, and facilitated the process of granting permission for extraordinary expenditures, capital campaigns, capital projects, and/or loan acquisition for many parishes.
- 12) Ongoing involvement with pastors and parish building committees and town hall meetings of four parishes regarding \$10million+ capital improvement or expansion projects.
- 13) Ongoing service as archdiocesan point of contact with Benedictines at the Abbey of Sts. Louis and Mary and the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood (O'Fallon).
- 14) Accepted invitations from various parishes/groups to preside at special occasion liturgies or gatherings
- 15) Facilitated effective contact and timely response for pastors with other curial entities as needed
- 16) Engaged in second year of a process of consultation with 10 pastors and OCEF regarding schools operating on Feasibility Plans
- 17) Proposed and led consultation and discernment resulting in promulgation of new Archdiocesan Statute concerning the viability of schools and requisite permission before offering educational contracts
- 18) Engaged in consultation with 10 pastors with schools affected by the new Archdiocesan Statute concerning viability of schools

- 19) Engaged regularly with the Office of Communications in response to media concerns regarding the vicariate(s), parishes, etc.
- 20) Increasingly engaged by centralized curial offices and agencies for input about response strategies, planned initiatives, and implementation plans
- 21) Convened two of four Focus Groups of Pastors in collaboration with OCEF to begin discernment regarding the future of Catholic elementary schools
- 22) Collaborated with local initiative in engaging and scheduling Christopher West presentation on Theology of the Body
- 23) Facilitated collective discernment among pastors providing pastoral care in Spanish regarding the future of the Office of Hispanic Ministry

Committee Responsibilities:

- Archbishop's Cabinet (monthly)
- Vicars' Meetings (bimonthly)
- Priest Personnel Board (monthly)
- Presbyteral Council (monthly)
- Council of Deans (quarterly) Deanery Meetings (every other month, spring and fall)
- Archdiocesan School Advisory Board (quarterly) and Governance/Leadership Working Committee (monthly)
- COO Consultation (quarterly)
- ACA Ensuring Parish Viability Grant review and allocation committee (ad hoc)
- ACA Affordable Housing Grant review and allocation committee (ad hoc)
- Advisory Group Consultation regarding the Archdiocesan Bicentennial celebration (ad hoc)
- Ongoing consultation with Office of Parish & Curia Integration regarding a uniform annual census management process for all parishes
- Elementary Teachers Compensation consultation (ad hoc)
- Interview Team for the hiring of a new Executive Director of Human Resources (ad hoc)
- Interview Team for the hiring of a new Chief Finance Officer (CFO) (ad hoc)
- Interview Team for the acquisition of an archdiocesan Benefits Carrier
- Advisory Committee on Relegation of Churches and Alienation of Property (ad hoc)
- Catholic Charities Board of Governance Working Retreat (annual)
- Catholic Charities Community Committee of the Board (annual)

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- 1) In March, 2025, the three Vicariate Directors of Operations were provided specialized access and training as ArchHR “super users”, able to assist Human Resource personnel on many levels. In addition to directly contributing to clearing much of the hiring/onboarding backlog, I sat on several steering committees formed to address the stabilization and optimization of the ArchHR system, assisted with the development and communication of enhanced recruiting processes, and provided first-level support to parish leadership experiencing difficulty or having questions regarding ArchHR operations.
- 2) Beginning in April and with the support of the newly formed Talent Acquisition & Recruiting Team , I have provided ArchHR process review/training on location for 50% of the Western Vicariate parishes and/or schools, with participants including parish/school Business Managers, principals, and other staff directly involved in the hiring process. Locations included:

Deanery 5

- Ascension (parish, school, and Early Childhood Center)
- Our Lady of Lourdes - Washington (parish and school)
- Immaculate Conception - Union (parish and school)
- St. John the Baptist - Gildehaus (parish and school)
- St. Joseph - Neier
- St. Clare - St. Clair
- Most Sacred Heart - Eureka
- St. Ann - Clover Bottom
- St. Anthony - Sullivan
- St. Clare of Assisi
- St. Francis Borgia (parish and school)
- St. Gertrude
- St. Joseph - Manchester
- St. Vincent de Paul - Dutzow

Deanery 6

- All Saints - St. Peters
- St. Alphonsus – Millwood (parish and school)
- St. Charles Borromeo (parish and school)
- St. Peters - St. Charles
- St. Cletus (parish and school)
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (parish and school)
- St. Joseph – Josephville (parish and school)
- St. Juan Diego
- St. Paul - St. Paul (parish and school)
- Holy Rosary – Warrenton (parish and school)

- 3) Have provided various levels of training in parish operations (Servant Keeper, Parish Helper OnLine, etc.) for 6 new business managers, and have reached out to/offered assistance to an additional 5.
- 4) Stemming from conversations with parish business managers, the vicariate directors of operations initiated development of new resource sharing platform, "The Roundtable", a monthly online opportunity for parish leaders to learn and share ideas.
- 5) Provided support for special curial events and projects:
 - Cross Catholic Outreach and the Archbishop's Boxes of Joy Initiative
 - Missionaries of Joy Initiative
 - Bicentennial celebration planning

Continued/Ongoing

- Using the Flocknote platform, we publish 2 weekly newsletters to provide effective and regular communication between the Curia, the Vicariates, the parishes, and the laity.
- Utilizing the same Flocknote platform, we issue periodic alerts containing urgent and/or targeted messaging from curia agencies and ministries as needed/requested, most particularly information regarding ArchHR, Benefits and Open Enrollment, Finance/Payroll updates, and various archdiocesan initiatives such as Missionaries of Joy.
- Develop and administer Curia Connections, an accessible, inclusive quarterly meeting established to provide parish office staff a professional forum to connect with one another and receive timely and informative presentations from curia offices and ministries.
- Regular attendance of Business Manager meetings (an informal group of parish professionals who meet semi-monthly for the purpose of idea exchange and fellowship).
- Continue to serve as the initial point of contact for parishes and general laity requiring support from/through the vicariate offices, manage general vicariate office operations and provide administrative support to Episcopal Vicar, Vicariate Directors, and Vicariate Liaisons, and coordinate renovation efforts to convert the former rectory of St. Robert Bellarmine into permanent vicariate office space.

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Director of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry

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- 1) Nearly 20% of parishes have completed or are going through the yearlong process of evangelization team formation

Completed:

- St. Francis Borgia
- St. Patrick
- Immaculate Conception Dardenne Prairie
- Immaculate Conception Old Monroe
- Sts. Joachim & Ann

Teams in process

- Holy Infant
- Holy Rosary
- Christ Prince of Peace

Scheduled to begin formation this fall

- St. Clare of Assisi

- 2) As of September 2025, 26% of parishes will have received faculty/staff retreats or days of prayer
 - St. Clare of Assisi
 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - Immaculate Heart of Mary
 - St. Patrick
 - St. Francis Borgia Parish
 - St. John the Baptist Gildehaus faculty
 - Ascension PSR catechists
 - Sts. Joachim & Ann catechists
 - St. Francis Borgia Parish
 - Christ Prince of Peace
 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
 - St. Bridget of Kildare
 - Our Lady of Lourdes

- 3) As of October 2025, 11 Saturday Evangelization Workshops in the Western Vicariate have been offered

- Evangelization 101 (1 offered)
- Evangelization 201 (5 offered)
- Evangelization 301 (2 offered)
- Meet them at the Well (3 offered)

- 4) Facilitated 4 Nights of Prayer & Training for Parish Ministries:

- Ministry Leader Evening of Prayer for All Saints
- Usher/hospitality ministers' night of prayer & training at St. Francis Borgia Parish, St. Patrick, & Immaculate Conception Old Monroe

- 5) Facilitated faculty/staff retreats for Duchesne and St. Francis Borgia High Schools
- 6) Facilitated high school board retreat Duchesne High School
- 7) Serving on Catholic Identity Committee for Duchesne High School
- 8) In collaboration with campus minister, providing ongoing faculty formation for Duchesne High School
- 9) Ongoing meetings with CReS, DREs, directors of evangelization, faith formation, and other parish pastoral staff as needed
- 10) Assisting Office of Evangelization with Missionaries of Joy for in-person workshops
- 11) Appreciation dinner for faith leaders of the Western Vicariate provided
- 12) In collaboration with director of social outreach, prepare(d) and facilitated formation experiences at Curia Connections for parish staff members of Western Vicariate
- 13) Facilitated catechists' workshop for Western Vicariate
- 14) Currently preparing a parish team for parish weekend retreat for St. Cletus
- 15) Collaborate with director of religious education and directors of pastoral ministry for northern and southern vicariates about future PSR ideas
- 16) In collaboration with OCEF and directors of pastoral ministry, facilitate Principals Retreat
- 17) Collaborate with directors of pastoral ministry for the northern and southern vicariates

On horizon

1. Collaborating with Director of Social Outreach, facilitating Confirmation retreats for St. Francis Borgia Parish and St. Ann Clover Bottom
2. Parish evangelization team formation, as requested
3. Parish/school staff/faculty retreats, as requested
4. Facilitate Evangelization 401 Workshop
5. Facilitate spring catechists' workshop for Western Vicariate
6. Along with parish team and pastor, facilitate parish weekend retreat for St. Cletus
7. Speaking engagement at Kenrick Glennon Seminary for Discipleship Formation Conference

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- 1) Organized, created flyers, and hosted Social Action Leaders meetings on Food Insecurity, Advocacy and Social Outreach Engages the Catholic Imagination, Current State of Tornado Recovery throughout the Archdiocese
- 2) Continued formation with the Peace & Justice Ministry at St. Joe Cottleville
- 3) Assisted in creating the Prison ministry formation for the laity
- 4) Transitioned Parents of Prodigals to Tammy Chumley
- 5) Assisted with the creation and hosting of the DACA Gala to fund grants for DACA renewal, deferred action, and childhood arrivals. \$9500 was raised
- 6) Assisted in the planning of and attended the Archdiocesan wide Solidarity Walk and Mass for Immigrants
- 7) Attended the St. Cletus monthly Peace & Justice Ministry meetings and shared Archdiocesan and Western Vicariate information regarding Catholic social teaching, social justice, and advocacy events and opportunities
- 8) Attended the Christ Prince of Peace monthly Peace & Justice Ministry meetings and shared Archdiocesan and Western Vicariate information regarding Catholic social teaching, social justice, and advocacy events and opportunities
- 9) Attended the St. Alban Roe monthly Bridges of Mercy Ministry meetings and shared Archdiocesan and Western Vicariate information regarding Catholic social teaching, social justice, and advocacy events and opportunities
- 10) Planned and organized the first Archdiocesan Catholic Social Teaching Retreat including inviting the speakers, confirming and coordinating with the facility, giving the first talk, and closing prayer service
- 11) Assisted in the planning and hosting of three events with the author, Jeffry Korgen: two at Cardinal Rigali Center open to the Archdiocese, and one with Priory's Catholic social Teaching high school class.
- 12) Participated in the planning of the Border Mass in El Paso which is a pilgrimage and teach-in experience for Archdiocesan high school students and youth ministry groups
- 13) Assisted St. Cletus with Archdiocesan approved voter information and registration
- 14) Planned, prepared for, and presented as a panel member at Evangelization 301 led by Tammy Chumley
- 15) Assisted with the planning, hosting and facilitation of the first annual Laudato Si' Summit
- 16) Engaged in a couple of conversations with Catholic Rural Life to see if their organization would be a fit for our pastors in rural parishes
- 17) Connected Christ Prince of Peace with Birthright St. Charles to engage in their Christmas card fundraiser
- 18) Worked with VOYCE, organization supporting elders, to hold two seminars at St. Joe Cottleville and hosted: Session 1 ~ Power of Attorney, Living Will, and Advanced Medical Directives and Session 2: Elder Abuse, Scams, an live Healthy Now and Forever

- 19) Planned with Jaclyn, the Office of Youth Ministry, then prepared and presented to youth ministers on a Catholic Social Teaching and how to make service transformational. Also provided suggestions of how Directors of Social Outreach can support youth ministers.
- 20) Assisted St. Cletus in the preparation of the Racial Unity Mass and connected the planning team with the Office of Sacred Worship.
- 21) Assisted with getting an ID back from the TRO police to a woman we believe was being trafficked
- 22) Reached out to the Office of Child and Youth Protection to assist Tim Massey, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul liaison for the Western Vicariate, with identifying the schedule of Prevent and Protect workshops so Vincentians could be compliant with this training.
- 23) Professional Development Training Attended:
 - Immigrant Service Providers Network
 - Aging in Place
 - Immigration and Refugee Advocacy 101
 - Migration, Refugee Resettlement, and Mass Deportation
 - The Gun Violence Prevention Forum 2025
 - How to Talk About Climate Change
 - Engaging Youth and Families through Service
 - Los Angeles Religious Ed Congress
 - Practical Ways to Teach on ecological Spirituality
 -
- 24) Shared with Hispanic Parishes the opportunity to hold Know Your Rights and Power of Attorney Workshops
- 25) Planned, prepared, and co-led formation with Tammy Chumley for Curia Connections: July 2024, January 2025, and April 2025
- 26) Prepare and present at "Living the Call to Racial Justice" conference hosted by College Church
- 27) Planned, prepared, and presented a four session workshop on the Seven Catholic Social Teaching Principles for St. Alban Roe Parish and parishioners from the Western Vicariate.
- 28) Finalized the traveling display of the Border Mass by designing each poster with a student picture, student quote, and quote from Catholic Social Teaching. This will begin traveling throughout the Archdiocese in the Fall of 2025 after the initial reveal in the hallway of the Education Department at Cardinal Rigali Center
- 29) Provided Gun Violence statistics that occurred within the region of Deanery 6 for the Deanery 6 meeting
- 30) Attended the Laudato Si' Speaker Series
- 31) Worked with a subcommittee of the Gun Violence Taks Force to create the talking points for the Deanery meetings
- 32) Attended and supported the Prison Ministry Appreciation Ministry
- 33) Assisted Maggi Rimel with the planning of St. Cletus' Parish Council Retreat
- 34) Prepared and presented to The Martha's, a group of the Catholic Roman Foundation, on behalf of the Immigration Task Force in hopes of receiving a grant to assist with funding for students to attend The Border Mass Pilgrimage to El Paso. We received a \$3000 grant.
- 35) Attended and contributed to the Catholic charities Strategic Planning Workshop
- 36) Attended and supported the "Abolish the Death Penalty" breakfast and presentation

- 37) Assisted at Sacred Heart Troy's Power of Attorney workshop for immigrants
- 38) Attended Catholic Charities Ambassador's event
- 39) Attended Life's River Celebration
- 40) Packaged and distributed gun locks with the help of Laura and two parishioners to all parishes in the Western Vicariate. Three parishes declined.
- 41) Attended Sparrow's Nest Fundraiser Luncheon
- 42) Met with Bridge Bread to discuss greater parish involvement
- 43) Attended St. Martha's dedication to those who lost their lives due to domestic violence in the last year. Toured the drop in center
- 44) Prepared for and spoke at St. Justin's Soul sister monthly luncheon. Topic was "Mary as a Model for Kinship"
- 45) Engaged in advocacy in Jeff City on behalf of immigrants
- 46) Engaged in advocacy in Washington DC on behalf of Catholic Relief Services
- 47) Assisted in the planning and attended the 2024 DACA Gala
- 48) Repeatedly sent out requests to notify parishioners of the items needed for the survivors of the May tornadoes in the city.
- 49) Attended the Missionaries of Joy Workshop and assisted in the planning of the Quarterly gatherings.

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Catholic Charities Navigator

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In seeking greater alignment with the Archdiocese and striving to serve every square mile in each parish boundary, Catholic Charities continues to seek new ways to provide services and partner with agencies to do the same. To this end in the Western Vicariate, the following occurs monthly:

- Participate in monthly meetings with the Franklin County Homelessness Task Force and Franklin County Community Resource Board to collaborate with agencies to meet resident needs. Agencies include: Franklin County Health Dept, Ability, Compass Health, Jefferson-Franklin Community Action Corporation: EZMO/Vital ID, VA, Empac, Salvation Army, Life's River, Harvest Table, Prevent Ed, Union School District, Peace Lutheran Church, SVDP, Turning Point, CASA, SE Behavioral Health, ALIVE Court Advocacy, Foundations 4 Franklin County, Confident Kid Dental Charity, AlAnon, NUUR, LSEM, St. Patrick Center, Grace's Place, Washington Emergency Relief Fund, Gateway to Hope, Children's Advocacy Center, Hope 4 Franklin County Coalition, Neighbors United Undoing Racism, Mercy, etc.
- Resource Boards - Regularly attend monthly meetings of four county Resource Boards to build relationships/provide social outreach to the numerous organizations and agencies serving each county: Franklin County Community Resource Board, Franklin County Homeless Task Force, Lincoln County Resource Board, and the Community Council of St. Charles Council.
- Participate in monthly meetings with Lincoln County Resource Board to collaborate with agencies to meet resident needs. Agencies include: Bridge of Hope, F.A.C.T., Crisis Nursery West, Youth In Need, TCAC, St. Louis Counseling, DART Coalition, Troy R-III School District, Prevent Ed, SJA, CHN, Lincoln/Pike County Children's Division, 45th Circuit Children's Division, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Thrive-Best Choice, etc.
- Participated in NECAC Housing Summit in Hannibal to partner with various agencies and to advocate affordable housing.
- Presented to St. Vincent de Paul Assumption BVM Conference.
- Collaborated with St. Vincent de Paul Society Conferences to help serve neighbors in need.
- Collaborated with The Care Service on providing services to neighbors in need, particularly in terms of housing, case management, counseling, and food pantries in the area.
- Met with St. Francis Xavier College Church to determine possible locations where communities and agencies might be trained to run an ID assistance program.
- Connected with 50+ different community agencies to understand what they do, issues they are facing and to build collaboration opportunities.
- Answered over 300+ Request for Care emails through ccstl.org website.
- Responded to calls from parishes requesting assistance in locating services for parishioners.
- Responded to calls from SVdP and other agencies requesting assistance in locating services for neighbors in need.

- Collaborated with Catholic Charities Ministries, SVdP, and partner agencies to collect information from victims of spring tornadoes at the Multi-Agency Resource Center in Franklin County.
- Collaborated with Catholic Charities Ministries to begin to respond to over 2000 requests for assistance from victims of the May 16th tornado in St. Louis City/County: collaboratively created a disaster recovery call center, trained and managed volunteers, and began collecting information and providing assistance and resources.
- Below are examples of how the CC Navigator provides direct help to those in need:
 - Assisted a single mother of four kids in Lincoln County with replacing her roof which had sustained hail damage and was leaking water into her house jeopardizing housing. Through the Helping Hands grant and in partnership with Bridge of Hope LC, Sacred Heart's St. Vincent de Paul, and the contractor, she was able to replace the roof and stabilize her housing.
 - Assisted a man and his family with five kids with rent after his employer mistakenly overpaid him and then garnished multiple checks. The garnishment led him to be unable to pay rent and he was struggling to catch up, jeopardizing his housing. Partnering with J&A Care Service, Sacred Heart St. Vincent de Paul, and NECAC, Catholic Charities Helping Hands was able to help him pay rent and stay current on all his bills again.
 - Assisted a man and his daughter who were moving into an apartment and needed furniture, specifically a bed and living room furniture. Assisted with a non-profit referral to The Bridge for furniture and set up a date for the client to find a bed.
- Support the Archbishop's stated goals: 1) Strengthen Catholic and ministerial identity, 2) Integrate and become essential in All Things New, and 3) Grow the number of lives we serve.
- Catholic Charities, supported by the Navigator, funds leadership for Bridge of Hope shelter in Lincoln County and continues to follow up to ensure communities utilize the resources.
- Catholic Charities, supported by the Navigator, funds leadership for Life's River shelter in Franklin County and continues to follow up to ensure communities utilize the resources.
- Catholic Charities: Met with Parish Ambassadors and Catholic Charities Ministry leaders to learn about many of the programs and services offered and the various projects that are happening within parishes to support CC and the community, attended and provided insights at the Catholic Charities Visioning Workshop in April, and have encouraged pastors we've met with to bring in various Catholic Charities training:
 - Effects of Domestic Violence on Children for teachers and youth ministers
 - Advocacy from a Catholic Perspective
 - Am I My Brother's Keeper - Racialization of America
 - Domestic Violence and the Impact on Children
 - Aging in Place

Social Outreach and Catholic Charities - Collaborative Efforts as a Western Vicariate Team

- 1) Pastors and Parishes: Have connected with 11 pastors/19 parishes, and have reached out to another six pastors/7 parishes to discuss how we can be most helpful to partner with, be present to, and best serve them and the needs of their parish community, as well as the Social Outreach and St. Vincent de Paul Society ministries that the parishioners are currently engaged in.
- 2) St. Vincent de Paul Council Leadership ~ Attending periodic meetings with St. Vincent de Paul Council Leadership, which includes the Western Vicariate Liaison, to develop our working, collaborative, and supportive relationships.
- 3) Mercy Community Health Council - Attending two meetings per month via Zoom to develop a knowledge base of healthcare resources to share with pastors, parishioners, and people within parish boundaries, including but not limited to Substance Use Recovery Clinic (including a virtual program), Narcan Vending Machines, Collaborative Behavioral Health Care Management, Little Food Pantries, Vital Documentation for patients, Health Shelves (access to fresh vegetables for seniors), and Dispensary of Hope (prescription medications for those without insurance).
- 4) Participate in Community Council of St. Charles County Network Luncheons to develop relationship and partner with: The Care Service, The Sparrow's Nest, Compass Community Health, Child Advocacy Center, LDS Church, Agape Community Outreach, Aging Ahead, Birthright, Delta Center, NAMI, NECAC, Nurses for Newborns, SVdP, Turning Point, Youth In Need, etc.
- 5) Participate in monthly St. Charles County Housing Team meetings to advocate for and work on affordable housing initiatives.
- 6) Participate in St. Vincent de Paul Northeast District Homeless Meetings.
- 7) Met with Northwest District President of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to help strategize how to keep Vincentians engaged when there are many within a conference, how to invite parishioners to become Vincentians, how to support and collaborate with Conferences.
- 8) Initiated conversations with St. Clare Catholic Church in St. Clair to learn about their Catholic Services organization and plan for the possibility of co-locating multiple services and providing resources to the community.
- 9) Reached out to Fr. Nord and Fr. Winker to ensure their communities had resources immediately after the March tornadoes.
- 10) Other organizations / agencies with whom we have connected/collaborated:
 - Met with Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter to learn about their programs and collaborate on providing grant assistance for clients.
 - Met with Sparrow's Nest to partner on supporting young families, mothers, and their children.
 - The Care Service at Sts. Joachim and Ann, serving in St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren Counties.
 - Anchor House, an organization that has turned a former motel into affordable housing that accepts section eight vouchers.
 - Life's River, which assists with lifting individuals and families out of homelessness.
 - Bridge of Hope, which assists with lifting individuals and families out of homelessness.
 - EZMO Driver Program, which provides those in need transportation to doctor appointments, grocery stores, etc., while providing volunteer drivers a way to earn money.

- St. Francis Xavier College Church/Direct Programs Committee to discuss collaboration between Catholic Charities, West Vicariate, and parishes for Vital ID and other needs.
- Criminal Justice Ministry to learn about their programs and individuals they serve returning from incarceration.
- Reestablished a relationship with Rural Parish Clinic with their newly hired communications and community engagement coordinator

Current and Ongoing Initiatives:

- Continue to meet with Pastors and Parishes to discuss how we can be most helpful to partner with, be present to, and best serve them, as pastors, the needs of the parish community as well as the Social Outreach and St. Vincent de Paul Society ministries that the parishioners are currently engaged in.
- Create a list of vetted resources and make available for downloading from the Western Vicariate webpage
- Transportation for St. Charles, Warren, and Lincoln ~ possibly replicating EZMO's model
- Working with Catholic Charities and local organizations to determine how to best support Catholic Services of St. Clair at St. Clare Catholic Church as they support the people of their community. Plan for the possibility of co-locating multiple services and providing resources to the community.
- Assisting St. Francis Borgia with moving of food pantry
- Increase Catholic presence in the West County Interfaith Alliance
- Work to replicate the Southern Vicariates "Pilgrims of Hope, Messengers of Mercy and Compassion" information session and road trip.

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Monthly/Periodic/Ongoing

1. Weekly Western Vicariate Staff Meetings, Weekly OCEF Director meetings, Elementary team meetings, and Leadership team meetings at OCEF
2. Oversaw the Archdiocesan Department of Special Education – met bi-weekly with the principal of Annunziata School and the Director of SCCA Learning Center, scheduled and attend all DSE Leadership team meetings to address student registrations and planning
3. Scheduled school visits/principal and/or pastor meetings to address operational needs
4. Maintained open availability via phone and email for any emergency, concerns, or questions
5. Hosted Archdiocesan Parish School Advisory Board Orientations – held via zoom in August, September, and October, over 100 new board members were trained in the three meetings
6. Planned and attended Deanery Principal Meetings-Deanery 5 and 6
7. Participated in the quarterly Western Vicariate Curia Connections meetings
8. Consultation meetings with the Episcopal Vicar and pastors of the 10 schools with feasibility plan

July

1. Planned and led the orientation of the new elementary principals, to include introduction to National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools and the domains of Human Formation in leadership.
2. Held one on one meeting with all First Year Principals at their schools getting them connected to the Archdiocese of St. Louis

August

1. First Year Principal sessions began (continued monthly through May 25) to include mentoring of all new principals in the Western Vicariate on a monthly basis
2. Planned and participated in New Teacher Orientation for all new teachers to the archdiocese, which included collaboration and planning with the Director of Religious Education, Director of Academics, and the Office of General Council
3. Participated in the Theology of the Body Teacher training for all new teachers to the Archdiocese of St. Louis
4. Participated in a day of Professional Development for all principals and teachers within our Washington Schools
5. Visited a large number of the Western Vicariate Schools for their Opening Liturgies and school events

September

1. Planned and attended the Principal Leadership Commissioning Mass with Archbishop Rozanski
2. Planned and held Principal Deanery Meetings for Deanery 5 and Deanery 6
3. Attended the Vicariate Day of Prayer
4. Attending the St. John Vianney Speaker Series with schools of the Western Vicariate

October

1. Planned and attended Principals' Retreat at Cedar Creek
2. Participated in the School Improvement Year One Orientation for all schools beginning the School Improvement Process
3. Participated in two School Improvement Visits: Holy Infant School and St. Paul School
4. Planned and attended the Christopher West presentation at Incarnate Word Parish
5. Attended the Feasibility meetings with our Episcopal Vicar and Pastors
6. Participated in "God's Own Making" training
7. Served as a Curia representative at the ACA Luncheon

November

1. Continued the Feasibility meetings with our Episcopal Vicar and Pastors
2. Planned and held Principal Deanery Meetings for Deanery 5 and Deanery 6
3. Attended the Missouri Nonpublic Accrediting Association Board Meeting
4. Planned and attended the First Year Principal Meeting
5. Participated in Department of Special Education planning meetings

December

1. Attended the Vicariate Advent Day of Prayer
2. Participated in an Asset Mapping Interview with representatives of ADAC to assist in the study of Special Education practices and resources across the Archdiocese of St. Louis
3. Held pastor meetings with Fr. Maassen, Fr. Vordtriede, and Fr. Godefroid
4. Participated in a planning meeting for the schools and parishes located along the I-79 corridor
5. Regular school visits and attended Advent/Christmas events at Western Vicariate Schools

January

1. Participated in Department of Special Education visioning and planning meetings
2. Participated in the School Improvement Visiting Team Orientation for all schools hosting site visits
3. Led a Principal Search Orientation at Seton Regional and Immaculate Conception, Old Monroe, for their Principal Search Committees
4. Planned and attended the First Year Principal Meeting
5. Led a Professional Development Lunch and Learn for the faculty at Ascension School

6. Attended an Inclusion Meeting at Christ the King School with High School principals and admission counselors
7. Participated in Feasibility Plan review and follow-up meetings with OCEF leadership and our Episcopal Vicar
8. Participated in Catholic Schools Week events and activities

February

1. Principal Hiring Began-Scheduled and participated in all Principal Screenings
2. Planned and attended the First Year Principal Meeting
3. Planned and held Principal Deanery Meetings for Deanery 5 and Deanery 6
4. Attended a Crisis Go training for implementation within the Western Vicariate Schools
5. Attended the Missouri Nonpublic Accrediting Association Board Meeting
6. Participated in an Asset Mapping review meeting with representatives of ADAC to assist in the study of Special Education practices and resources across the Archdiocese of St. Louis
7. Attended an informational meeting with representatives of Lumen Accreditation to explore the opportunity of an archdiocesan accreditation rooted in the Catholic faith

March

1. Participated in two School Improvement Visits: Assumption School and Immaculate Conception, Dardenne Prairie School
2. Principal Hiring - Scheduled and participated in all Principal Screenings
3. Prepared and offered contracts to Department of Special Education leaders and teachers.
4. Attended the Archbishop's Gospel of Life Prayer and Breakfast

April

1. Planned and hosted Deanery Principal Zoom meeting for Deanery 5 and Deanery 6
2. Participated in the Director of Special Education and Inclusion Interviews for the Office of Catholic Education and Formation
3. Participated in two School Improvement Visits: Immaculate Conception School in Union and All Saints School
4. Planned and attended the First Year Principals' Celebration luncheon
5. Principal Hiring - Scheduled and participated in all Principal Screenings
6. Attended the TTEF Archbishop's Gala
7. Participated in the School Improvement Year Two Orientation – a meeting held for all schools beginning the second year of the School Improvement Process
8. Served on the Catholic Identity Subcommittee of the Archdiocesan School Advisory Board
9. Participated in a focus group of pastors along the I-79 corridor

May

1. Participated in a professional development on Curriculum design through Miriam Learning Center
2. Participated in a focus group of pastors in St. Charles City
3. Hosted a Gratitude Luncheon for all retiring Elementary Principals
4. Attended Annunziata School's 8th Grade Graduation
5. Attended South City Catholic Academy's 8th Grade Graduation
6. Attended the National Convening of Special Education at Saint Louis University
7. Participated in end-of-the-school-year events and activities

June

1. Attended a training on NWEA longitudinal data review
2. Served on the Catholic Identity Subcommittee of the Archdiocesan School Advisory Board
3. Attended the FBI School Safety Summit at Ladue High School
4. Participated in an ArchHR Talent Management Optimization meeting
5. Attended the Missouri Nonpublic Accrediting Association Board Meeting in Jefferson City and presented all elementary annual applications for accreditation
6. Met with new leadership at St. Francis Borgia Grade School
7. Met with a parish School Task Force to discuss plans for attaining the goals of their feasibility plans
8. Participated in the ArchHR Talent Acquisition review and follow-up meeting
9. Read and reviewed all principal and teacher evaluations for the Western Vicariate Schools
10. Review all school calendars for the Western Vicariate

Deacon Jorge Perez (retired July, 2025) and the Office of Hispanic Ministry

July

- 1) Evangelization Workshop @ St Patrick
- 2) National Eucharistic Congress
- 3) PGC Workshop @ SCB

August

- 1) Ministry planning visit with Blue Sisters in Flint Hill
- 2) Core team attended 15ra Workshop from Agape Ministries for Coreteam
- 3) OCIA Conference in KS

September

- 1) Seminar "Conversational Pastoral Spanish" @ Kendrick (every Friday through May 2025)
- 2) Retreat @ All Saints
- 3) Mass @ Cathedral Basilica World Day of Migrants

October

- 1) Marriage Prep Retreat @ CRC
- 2) Attended NACDH Conference @ Miami
- 3) Annual Region IX Hispanic Deacon Retreat @ Creighton RetreatCenter in IA
- 4) Annual Region IX Hispanic Leader Meeting

November - December

- 1) Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Basilica in Mex.
- 2) Encuentro Diocesano @ CRC
- 3) Know your Rights Workshop @ CRC

January

- 1) Charismatic Group Retreat
- 2) Peace and Justice Mass @ Cathedral Basilica

February

- 1) Workshop > Faith Formation (February through June)
- 2) Holy Hour @ Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 3) Retreat @ CRC

March

- 1) Marriage Prep Retreat @ All Saints

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The 2024–2025 ministry year was marked by transition, resilience, and renewed commitment. Amid significant staff turnover—including the departure of the director and multiple team members—the Office of Youth Ministry remained steadfast in its mission to support parish leaders, form young disciples, and create meaningful encounters with Christ across the Archdiocese. With the appointment of a new director in January, we entered a new chapter shaped by collaboration, strategic outreach, and deeper investment in parish youth ministry leadership.

Regional Formation & Leadership Development - This year, we prioritized accessible, high-impact formation and leadership development throughout the archdiocese. By intentionally offering regional opportunities in each vicariate—while keeping events open to all—we worked to meet parish leaders where they are and build unity around a shared mission.

Key initiatives included:

- **Youth Ministry Training Day:** Formation on the *Listen, Teach, Send* framework, trauma-informed care, and liturgical engagement.
- **Monthly Leader Gatherings:** Topics included leadership development, ministry planning, service, and best practices in middle school ministry.
- **Advent & Lenten Days of Prayer:** In collaboration with partners in faith formation.
- **Annual Youth Leader Retreat:** A weekend of prayer, reflection, and spiritual growth for all youth ministry leaders and teams.

Raising Up a New Generation of Disciples - Our office remained committed to creating vibrant, Christ-centered opportunities for youth to grow in discipleship, community, and vocational awareness.

- **The Middle School Summit** (Nov. 7): Over 1,600 middle school youth explored the universal call to holiness alongside priests, deacons, seminarians, and religious.
- **Day of Discipleship** (Nov. 9): Focused on Marian spirituality and leadership for 7th and 8th grade girls.
- **Day of Recollection** (Oct. 26): Focused on faith through the discovery of Mass, the Rosary, games for youth earning the Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII religious awards.
- **Totus Tuus Summer Program** (June & July): Four local missionary teams served 22 parishes/pastorates across the archdiocese, combining fun with solid catechesis and faith witness.

- **Steubenville Conferences** (July): 8,500 youth and leaders gathered over two weekends for powerful worship, catechesis, and Eucharistic encounter.
- **Scouting as Youth Ministry:** We celebrated over 130 youth at Religious Awards Sunday, with additional awards distributed at the parish level. Catholic Mass was regularly celebrated at summer scout camps, and our leadership team maintained a strong presence at the council level to advocate for Catholic Scouting.

Collaboration Across Ministries - We continued to strengthen collaboration with other archdiocesan offices, working to ensure that youth ministers and volunteers are formed, supported, and present across a variety of pastoral efforts. These events enhanced formation, built connections, and reinforced that youth ministry is an integral part of the Church's broader mission.

Events Included:

- Catechetical Leader Commissioning Mass
- Catechist 101 Workshops
- Vicariate-Specific Trainings
- Catholic Men's and Women's Conferences
- Grandparents Conference
- *Sharing Hope with Our Children* with Katie Prejean McGrady
- *God's Wisdom & Love for LGBT+ People* Workshop for Youth Ministers

Opportunities and Plans for 2025–2026 - In 2025–2026, the Office of Youth Ministry will build on the momentum of this past year with a renewed focus on leadership formation, parish and vicariate outreach, and intentional collaboration. Rooted in missionary discipleship, our efforts will expand access, strengthen parish engagement, and form young leaders equipped to serve with purpose and joy.

Key Initiatives and Areas of Focus:

- **Summer Evangelization:**
Totus Tuus will return for seven weeks across the archdiocese providing a resource and program to 22 parishes/pastorates, with plans to expand the number of teams in 2026, which will allow for us to serve up to an additional 7 parishes/pastorates. Steubenville STL Mid-America will again welcome thousands of teens over two weekends for a powerful encounter with Christ.
- **Formation & Ongoing Support:**
Monthly Youth Ministry Gatherings will rotate across vicariates to remain accessible and

responsive to local needs while welcoming leaders from across the archdiocese. We will offer Advent and Lenten Days of Prayer, along with a retreat weekend for youth ministry leaders and teams. This year's annual training day will be offered in collaboration with Life Teen, featuring nationally recognized speakers and practical support.

- **New Youth Initiatives:**

We are developing new efforts focused on youth leadership formation and expanding opportunities for middle school ministry—empowering young people to lead, serve, and grow as missionary disciples.

- **Outreach and Accompaniment:**

We remain committed to meeting leaders where they are through intentional outreach, listening, and customized support. New project teams will engage parish youth ministry leaders directly, helping to shape resources and address emerging needs.

- **Archdiocesan Bicentennial Collaboration:**

As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the archdiocese, we will actively engage youth and ministry leaders in key events, ensuring that the young Church is represented and connected to this historic milestone.

Responding to Parish Needs - Areas of need expressed at this time:

- **Partnering with Parents:** Parents are the primary evangelizers of their children. Parish youth ministry leaders are seeking tools and strategies to actively engage parents as key partners in the faith journey of their teens.
- **Supporting New Leaders:** As more parishes welcome new or volunteer youth ministers, there's a growing need to help pastors and leadership teams understand how to support them—through mentoring, clear expectations, and accessible formation.
- **Clarifying the Vision for Youth Ministry:** Parishes are discerning what youth ministry looks like in their context—be it traditional programming, small groups, or regional collaboration. Supporting parishes to develop models that fit their community.
- **Ongoing Formation for Leaders:** Sustainable youth ministry depends on well-formed leaders. There is a need to further develop training and formation that is practical, flexible, and responsive to parish realities.

These efforts reflect our commitment to a mission-driven, responsive approach to youth ministry—one that strengthens parish life, equips leaders, and walks with young people across the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Our goal is to be a true partner to every parish and vicariate, offering practical support and listening closely to local needs to help build sustainable, mission-rooted models of ministry.

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Second Year Accomplishments- Fiscal Year 2025

- 1) Visited and attended parish meetings to develop relationships with pastors and business managers
- 2) Provide on-going accounting support to parish business managers to maintain consistent and correct financial reporting
- 3) Met with pastors and finance councils on school viability forecasts to be used for parish and school subsidies
- 4) Assisted new finance managers with on-boarding to Quickbooks and accounting financial help
- 5) Reviewed year end financials for all Western Vicariate parishes and provide guidance in accordance with audit requirements

Goals- Fiscal Year 2026

- 1) Standardize Chart of Accounts for all parishes to maintain consistent financial reporting
- 2) Develop standard set of month end financial reports to be used by all parishes
- 3) Maintain on-going accounting support for all parishes and assist pastors and business managers with any guidance and help needed
- 4) Look at future accounting software to provide faster and month end dashboard reporting

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2024-2025 RLA Year-in-Review for the Western Vicariate

- RLA Writing Contest Winners from the Western Vicariate:

Mary Forrestal Hennessey Scholarship Winner: Rosemarie Vlahutin – St. Peters (St. Charles)

Respect Life Apostolate Scholarship Winner: Grant Winkelmann – Immaculate Conception (Dardenne Prairie)

Steubenville CYC Winners: Vivian Winkels – Our Lady of Lourdes (Washington) and Kaiser Lucas – St. Cletus

Other Finalists:

Lucy Cahill – Christ Prince of Peace

Shea Cleary – St. Charles Borromeo

Conner Hardebeck – St. Joseph (Cottleville)

Lucie Hurst – Holy Infant

Delanie Jacobs – St. Clare of Assisi

Heidi Niederer – St. Theodore

Avery Pollock – St. Gertrude

Katelyn Straatmann – Immaculate Conception (Union)

- WV Parishes who hosted the Archdiocesan Monthly Prolife Mass & Rosary:
Immaculate Conception (Dardenne Prairie)
St. Charles Borromeo
St. Alban Roe
Sacred Heart (Troy)
St. Gianna
- A Celebrate Life Day was held at St. Joseph (Cottleville) on Tues, Jan. 21, 2025 for 8th grade students from various parishes in the WV.
- Mini-grants were given to the following schools who attended the March for Life in Washington DC or the Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City: Immaculate Conception School (Union); Sacred Heart (Valley Park); St. Francis Borgia; St. Joseph (Cottleville); St. Vincent de Paul (Marthasville)

- The following parishes held a Naming and Commendation Prayer Service this past year: Christ Prince of Peace; St. Joseph (Cottleville); St. Joseph (Manchester); St. Monica
- The Abortion Healing Ministry is establishing a base in the St. Charles area for those who have been wounded by abortion. Foundations have been laid to provide services in the WV. More information to come.
- On Sat., Sept. 20, 2025, the RLA is hosting along with Justice for All a prolife apologetics session at St. Gertrude's Parish.
- The RLA continues to establish ministry partnerships with Pregnancy Resource Centers in the WV such as Sparrow's Nest.