

## **UPDATES FROM COMMISSIONS**

*As of February 1, 2024*

A few proposals have been brought forward to the Cabinet and have been under discussion for the past couple of meetings. Read below for the latest updates on the proposals from certain commissions.

### **Vocations Commission:**

The commission made amendments to their proposal to have discernment groups in the diocese. It is important to their commission that the priest leading the discernment groups is enthusiastic about discernment groups. While these are happening, they would like to simultaneously see prayer groups praying for these vocation groups in various parishes. They are looking at collaborating with Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) to get a guest speaker for a vocations event. They would like the discernment group in Brandon to focus on men's vocations as a pilot test to see how it goes. There is a Serra Club retreat for women in the works for this year.

It was decided that it is important to get the ball moving. It is also key to make sure parishes are praying for vocations. It was requested that the commission include a mention of women and their presence in the vocational journey right now. This feedback was agreed to be taken back to the commission and they will look at tweaking the proposal. From there, it was decided that the next step would be for the Council of Priests to look over the proposal and discuss it. When the question of funding was brought up, the commission shared that much of it would be self-funded, as the current discernment group at St. Anthony's is self-funded.

### **Lay Ecclesial Leadership and Adult Lay Formation Commission:**

This commission discussed creating an advisory committee and that it is a big project. It was decided that creating an advisory committee does not currently fit within the commission's role. The advisory committee's role and purpose were discussed, and it was decided that this could not dominate the implementation of other proposals. Putting the advisory committee on the back burner and moving forward with other proposals can reveal answers to the questions about what the advisory committee should look like. Their next best step is looking at the next prioritized proposal. Their commission reiterated the importance of having an adult formation office in the Archdiocese. There is a tremendous need and desire for adult faith formation.

### **Marriage and Family Commission:**

This commission agreed that the sacrament of marriage can be celebrated more. Their proposal is centred on "Masses for Milestone Anniversaries." The Pastoral Service office would coordinate this. Below are some responses to the proposal from the Cabinet:

- Financial implications and labour are underestimated
- Proving couples were married in the church could be an issue

- Having the event on Mother's Day may affect attendance.
- Same-sex couples may come up for the blessing mentioned
- Not every marriage is sacramental

It was suggested to start with the major marriage milestones (15 years, 25 years, and 50 years of marriage) and to scale back the celebration. Then, they can gauge the response from there. It was also suggested to have it as a parish-based event rather than a diocesan one; the commission can provide templates on how parishes can celebrate this.