

Journey of Faith Update

We have received final approval from Archbishop Lucas on our submitted *Journey of Faith* proposal.

First: Archbishop's Final Decision:

Family Pastoral Planning Proposal Family & Convener: Urban Family F/Gadache Date: 9 March 2023

Archbishop Response

X Approved. With gratitude for the work begun in all 3 parishes to clearly articulate what their clear path(s) for discipleship looks like. Continue to enliven your clear paths to more intentionally meet everyone where they are on their faith journey and to help them grow in Christian maturity. As part of your clear paths, continue to build on your very good initiatives to collaborate for the enrichment of shared Adult Formation. Also continue to move forward with your efforts to maximize the investment in Catholic schools through a greater invitation for school families to participate in parish life. Thanks, too, for your very good work to complete the blending of Our Lady of Africa, St. Michael the Archangel and St. Bernard communities into one. This will encompass all aspects of parish life, including moving to one set of books for finances and for sacramental records.

Recommended: Parishes should continue to consider a shared tuition model, common salary and benefits for the schools, to attract and retain qualified staff, and possibly a common school corporation with board of limited jurisdiction.

Second: What's Next(from the Archdiocese):

- **Transition Phase begins.** The roughly 4-month long transition phase of Journey of Faith runs from now through June 30th. This is a time to catch our collective breaths, continue to process and internalize the changes that are coming, and to begin to think ahead to issues you might need to address now to create the conditions for smooth implementation beginning on July 1, 2023. You are free to begin your implementation sooner if that's what you think is best, but there is no expectation for you to do so.
- **Proposal finalization is mainly complete across the archdiocese.** The proposal finalization process is complete except for a very small number of families of parishes that are wrapping up their information sharing period this month--the archbishop will review and finalize those few remaining proposals on a case-by-case basis.
- **Coming soon: Spreading the word.** Now that we're wrapping up the final approval process, stay tuned for a series of upcoming archdiocesan-wide communications about the fruits of our planning, along with what's next as we continue our efforts to ever more deeply promote the mission of Jesus Christ.

Note: If anyone wishes to read the initial proposal and it's amendments, please go to the Parish Office to have one printed. It is over 40+ pages, so in an effort to conserve we will not print more than is requested.