

## Notes from Detroit LPFG and Board meeting – April 9, 2019

We scheduled the LPFG meeting before the regularly scheduled Board meeting from 4 – 6 PM. Most of the attendees were members of the Board. Those who were not board members were not able to attend. Because some of the attendees have not been at previous LPFG's, most of the responses to the questions were specific to what could be done at St. Paul's. But there were two questions that I think engendered more discussion than anything else.

One had to do with the term “crucified of today.” The person who asked about it didn't see herself as one of the “crucified,” and so she asked about those to whom the term referred. The discussion that ensued was similar to discussions that the vowed have had in the past. Retreat ministry involves encountering many people who are carrying various crosses in their lives. And some do have financial challenges. At the same time, retreat centers do not usually do direct outreach to the poor. I don't think there was any definite conclusion to the discussion, except to note that retreatants are carrying sometimes heavy crosses.

The other question was: “Who is the ‘we’ that is talked about doing the things called for in visioning?” And so we had some discussion about collaboration, and that we didn't want the visioning to be done only by the vowed. We also shared that the desire was not so much for the vowed to decide and the laity to help, but that they discern together. At the same time, there was a recognition that for many laity, their involvement cannot go much further than what it is already.

At this meeting, we were only able to look at Topic 1: “Understanding the signs of the times and guided by the Spirit, in what bold and prophetic ways will our message of the Cross be carried especially to those suffering the cross in their lives.” As I noted above, many answers to this had to do specifically with St. Paul's:

A big digital sign

Shirts for volunteers, Passionist fun socks

More direct outreach to find retreatants

Environmental service weekend for youth

Support for families dealing with dementia

What can we do to bring people back to God? How can we be a stronger presence in the community?

More accessible in social media

Geo fencing

10 minute retreat online, an example of going beyond the traditional bricks and mortar.

Since we didn't get to Topic 2, we integrated that into the presentation for the Board meeting about visioning. There is a separate set of notes that I will send with these.

Phil Paxton, CP