



Cohort 9 Update – July 2019

This is the 5th year of the Faith in Our Future process and the 3rd year of our Collaboration efforts. Each year we have established three goals, and through our collaborative effort are incorporating them into the fabric of our Cohort Parish Family.

The Cohort team members work well with one another and there is a great level of respect for one another's ideas, dreams, and hopes for the future. We are making progress and with change, it takes a lot of time and patience. People do not like change especially when it involves new ideas that disturb the comfortable. We are willing to keep the momentum going and do whatever we need to do to accomplish our goals and objectives. We are hopeful and strong in our faith that this is God's plan for his Son's Church, and we the worker bees, need to tap the resources to bring about good fruits. Examples of our progress thus far are:

- Joint Parish Directory
- Social Events and advertising of each other's important events in the bulletins
- Loaves and Fishes Social Outreach
- Pilgrimage Trip – March for Life
- Mardi Gras Party
- Religious Education Curriculum and Joint Confirmation Ceremony
- Evangelization-Christ Life Program (Discover Christ)

Our Religious Education Program continues to work on a combined curriculum with new text books, Christ Our Life Series (Loyola Press). This coming year, we are exploring opening our program to each parish to choose whatever time schedule fits their needs. For the first time we will be combining our celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation with a service at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church on **Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 4:00 pm** conferred by Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Walsh, Episcopal Vicar for Mercer County.

The Social Committee continues to be very active in providing programs and get-togethers throughout the year. Activities include: Bingo's, Loaves and Fishes, Photo Directory, Mardi Gras Party, Yard Sale, Luau, Fall Festival, Pasta Dinner, Children's Christmas Party, Easter Egg Hunt, Knights of Columbus Self Defense Program, and the Mass and presentation about the Persecuted Christians.

In regards to sharing each other's resources, there is a good spirit among both Fr. Michael Hall and Fr. Tom Morris in regards to helping each other wherever there is a need, i.e., sick calls, funerals, confessions or covering Masses where needed.

The Evangelization Committee conducted a Lenten Program for both parishes at the Incarnation Campus every Saturday for seven weeks. The theme of the activity was based on the ChristLife Program. The initial session was "Discovering Christ." This program will continue throughout the upcoming year with the next two sessions: "Following Christ" and "Sharing Christ."



As we look forward to the upcoming year, we will focus our energies in the following areas:

- Loaves and Fishes in the Fall of 2019
- Lenten Retreat
- Youth Development
- During the year we would also like to expand our conversations and interest in Villa Victoria Academy.

The Cohort continues to seek the support of all the Parishioners in Parish programs and activities, as well as strengthening our ties to the Trenton/Ewing communities. We ask you to seriously consider expanding your religious life by participating in at least one Cohort activity in the upcoming year. Our collaborative parishes consist of over 2400 families that are served by our Pastors and Priests. In the upcoming year, please find time in your schedule to be involved in our programs to help expand and strengthen our Cohort community.

I would like to thank all those on the Implementation Team for their cooperation and enthusiasm, and I look forward to our continued work as a Cohort in 2019-2020.

Peter Brennan, Chairman