

**JANUARY  
2021**

NEWS FROM AROUND  
THE MONROE VICARIATE

MONROE  
Vicariate



**VICAR**

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PASTOR, DIVINE GRACE  
CARLETON/MAYBEE

[www.monroevicariate.com](http://www.monroevicariate.com)

## Q & A: FAMILIES OF PARISHES

For more Q&A not included here, visit [www.familiesofparishes.org/faq](http://www.familiesofparishes.org/faq)



No doubt, you have been hearing and reading about the forming of “Families of Parishes” in the Archdiocese of Detroit. In our Monroe Vicariate, there will be three groupings, or families—in the City of Monroe, the Northern and Western part of the County, and the Southern County near the state line. Forming Families of Parishes will help us to best provide pastoral care for our parishes as we adopt a missionary spirit. Resources will be shared, and all clergy within the Family of Parishes will be assigned in solidum to jointly serve the individual Family of Parishes. Please remember that this process is a work in progress. To help you see how this is all envisioned, please check out the questions and answers below:

### 1. What are Families of Parishes?

Families of Parishes are groups of parishes, generally three to six, sharing resources to advance the mission. This new model will allow the priests, deacons, and lay staff associated with each parish to better share their gifts and talents with the whole Family of Parishes.

### 2. Why are we creating Families of Parishes?

The universal Church is facing significant challenges, including the shortage of priests to care for parish communities. The corona virus pandemic and its associated health and economic crises accelerated these problems. We now have fewer resources to continue the mission. We must move forward with greater collaboration and better stewardship of our resources.

### 3. What is the timing for Families of Parishes to be formally put in place?

When did this process begin: We anticipate that there will be two waves of Families of Parishes? The first wave will begin preparation in January of 2021 and will launch in July of 2021. The second wave will begin preparation in January of 2022 and will launch in July of 2022.

### 4. How will Families of Parishes groupings be chosen?

Vicars, working with the priests, created a list of parish families where there are 3 to 6 parishes per family, all should share a border with at least 1 other family member.

#### Wave 1 – July 1, 2021

##### MONROE VICARIATE FAMILY 2

- St. Anne Parish, Monroe
- St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Newport
- St. John the Baptist Parish, Monroe
- St. Mary Parish, Monroe
- St. Michael Parish, Monroe

#### Wave 2 – July 1, 2022

##### MONROE VICARIATE FAMILY 1

- Divine Grace Parish, Carleton/Maybee
- St. Gabriel Parish, Ida/Dundee
- St. Mary, Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, Rockwood

##### MONROE VICARIATE FAMILY 3

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Temperance
- St. Anthony Parish, Temperance
- St. Joseph Parish, Erie

### 5. What happens with the previously formed Leadership Teams and their functions?

Each Family of Parishes is anticipated to form a Leadership Team with representatives from each parish within the family.

### 6. Does this mean my parish may close, merge, or cluster? Or that a worship site may close?

No. This process does not involve any new merging or clustering of parishes. Whether a worship site closes is a decision independent of the Families of Parishes process.

### 7. What happens to parishes that are already clustered as they join the family?

Clustered parishes are considered individual parishes and are counted as such when grouped within a family. Likely the cluster would remain the same as a pastor will not serve in two distinct families.

### 8. Who will lead the Families of Parishes? What will be the role of our parish priests?

Leadership of a Family of Parishes will rest with a Pastor, with the support of the pastors of each of the parishes within the Family.

### 9. How will Families of Parishes affect poorer parishes? Will those less affluent parishes be forced or encouraged to close?

There is no pre-existing plan to force, encourage or guide parishes with fewer resources to close. Current guidelines for the Families of Parishes process include each parish retaining their separate identities, integrity and finances. Each Family discerns how to best align resources that exist within the Family. Decisions will be left to the discernment of the Family, with assistance from the Archdiocese of Detroit, guided by a complete focus on mission and the best interest of the entire community.

### 10. When will Families of Parishes begin operating as such?

The first wave will begin preparation in January of 2021 and will launch in July of 2021. The second wave will begin preparation in January of 2022 and will launch in July of 2022.

### 11. How will moving to Families of Parishes help mitigate the impact the pandemic has had on parish finances?

The financial crisis brought about by the pandemic has caused a significant decrease in parish offertories. While parishes within a Family will remain canonically and financially distinct entities, there is great potential to realize savings through economies of scale, the use of common tools and resources, as well as the sharing of some staff positions.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
Please email information to: [Crysti Esper at communications@monroevicariate.com](mailto:Crysti.Esper@monroevicariate.com). Thank you!



## Peace & Justice

### Disability Etiquette: Down Syndrome

The National Down Syndrome Society states that Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition. Approximately one in every 700 babies in the United States is born with Down Syndrome, which is almost 6,000 births per year. A few of the common physical traits of Down syndrome are low muscle tone, small stature, an upward slant to the eyes, and a single deep crease across the center of the palm. Every person with Down syndrome is a unique individual and may possess these characteristics to different degrees or not at all. All people with Down syndrome experience cognitive delays, but the effect is usually mild-to-moderate and is not indicative of the many strengths and talents that are possessed by each individual.

**Please use the following language when referring to Down syndrome.**

- People with Down syndrome should always be referred to as people first. Instead of “a Down syndrome child,” it should be “a child with Down syndrome.”
- Down syndrome is a condition or a syndrome, not a disease.
- People “have” Down syndrome, they do not “suffer from” it and are not “afflicted by” Down syndrome.
- “Typically developing” or “typical” is preferred over the use of “normal.”
- “Intellectual disability” or “cognitive disability” has replaced “mental retardation” as the appropriate term.
- The preferred spelling is Down syndrome, rather than Down’s syndrome.

*If your parish provides specific resources for people with disabilities or if you have knowledge that could be added to the basic procedures and information listed above, please contact Valerie Tyldesley, valerie.tyldesley@gmail.com, so the information can be published in the Mon-roe Vicariate.*



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## Stephen Ministers: The After People

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- ... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do.”
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

[www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)

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## Knights of Columbus® | Monroe Council #1266

Our Councils “Goodfellows Club” just completed the 106th consecutive Christmas food program for the needy of Monroe County. 2020 was definitely a year of need due to the pandemic and the many people out of work.

The Goodfellows food program started in 1914 functioning through the world wars and even during our countries great depression. In fact, in 1933 the Christmas food program fed over 500 families.

We are coupled with the Salvation Army, area churches, and federal low income housing authorities to find those in need.

Money for this program comes to us from the Goodfellows Paper sale, member donations, and local donations.

If you bought a paper THANK YOU! Any and All donations help to make this program the success it has been throughout the years.

We would also like to thank the SMCC Brother Brad Flint Mission Club and other students that manned multiple sites to help sell Goodfellow Papers.

The Knights of Columbus were founded by Fr. Michael McGivney in 1882, with the organizations prime mission being CHARITY!

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# Stephen Ministry: Extending the Love of the Christian Community

*"Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up." [1 Thessalonians 5:11]*

By John Castiglione, edited by Crysti Esper

**S**tephen Ministry, founded in 1975 in St. Louis, MO., by psychologist and author Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk. The organization has grown worldwide, with more than 600,000 Stephen Ministers working in over 12,000 congregations and parishes in the world.<sup>1</sup> The name "Stephen" comes from St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr who is also known as the Church's "first deacon" commissioned by Jesus' apostles to provide care by serving those in need. Priests, deacons, and pastoral ministers are on the frontlines of pastoral care during times of crisis; but there is a need for ongoing, one-on-one Christian care that pastoral leaders cannot effectively meet alone. That is where the Stephen Ministers come into play.



**Stephen Ministers, Chris Antonelli (left), and Dean Cousino both from St. John the Baptist Parish, receive mentoring support about their ministry with Deacon Tracy Esper.**

Stephen Ministers are lay parish members who come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Ministers are trained with God's Word and 50 hours of classwork to support and provide emotional and spiritual care to both parish members and non-parish members. Training takes place one time per week (usually on a weeknight) for two and a half hours per session, and participate in peer-group supervision and continuing education sessions twice per month.

After being assigned to a person experiencing a life crisis, the commissioned Stephen Minister meets with that person weekly to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts if the need for care exists.

Lorie Bronson, pastoral minister at St. Mary Parish and the person originally responsible for introducing Stephen



**Monroe Vicariate Vicar and Divine Grace Pastor, Fr. Mike Woroniewicz, blesses the Divine Grace Parish Stephen Ministers after Mass. Ministers are (L-R) Margaret Sroka, Ruth Meiring, Karen Laginess, and Ed Lambrix.**

Ministry to the Monroe Vicariate, said the ministry is a "blessing to caregivers and care receivers who experience one-to-one Christ-centered care amid a variety of difficult situations. It is as if Christ himself through the presence of a Stephen Minister, is guiding and comforting those who suffer."

Stephen Ministry cultivates a community that forms close bonds among the Stephen ministers through training and service together. Likewise, care receivers have expressed how they see their Stephen Minister as a tangible sign of the Church's care for them and growing their connection to the Church.

John Castiglione, a St. Mary Parishioner said being a Stephen Minister has been the "most wonderful journey" for him. It started with formation and training to become a Stephen Minister. "It taught me through formation and training not to listen so much with my ears, but rather listen with my heart. The care receiver does not have to feel alone because a Stephen Minister will walk alongside them in their journey. "Everyone experiences challenges in their lives and could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend."



**Stephen Ministers recently commissioned to serve are (L-R) Ed Lambrix, Robert Foshag, Kim Wilson, Sam Modica, and Michael Dazarow, are parishioners of our Monroe Vicariate parishes.**

At a very difficult time in her life, Kathleen Russeau a member of St. Mary Parish was going through a divorce and was miles away from her family. She was in dire need of assistance. She attended church in another area that offered Stephen Ministry. She inquired about the ministry and a woman Stephen minister was assigned to her. Russeau said that "she helped me through those dark days. We met weekly and had conversations about my struggles getting – we prayed together, but most of all, I knew that I was not alone and had someone to listen to me.

It is now my time to 'pay it forward' to someone who may need a Stephen Minister. I want to make sure we have this opportunity available for others to benefit from Stephen Ministry."

Father David Burgard, the pastor of St. Mary and St. John Parishes, said Stephen Ministry extends the ministry of the church to those who may feel alone or disconnected. "As a priest, I know that I cannot



**Fr. David Burgard, pastor at St. Mary and St. John the Baptist parishes with Stephen Minister/Leader, John Castiglione**

personally be present to the needs of God's people as I would like, so I'm grateful to know that there are faith-filled lay parishioners who have heard the call to share in the ministry of Jesus' mercy and compassion." Father thanks Stephen Ministers who accompany those in need of support. "We hope that more men and women will embrace this opportunity to bring hope, healing, and comfort to those who are suffering."

St. Mary Parish, Monroe, recently became the first Stephen Ministry registered parish among all the Catholic parishes in Monroe County. Leaders, John Castiglione, and Karen Burns can train and organize lay people to become Stephen Ministers.

For more information about the ministry, people can contact John Castiglione at 313-363-3545, Lorie Bronson at 734-241-6088, or the St. Mary Parish Office, 734-241-1644, or [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org).

**SOURCE:** [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)



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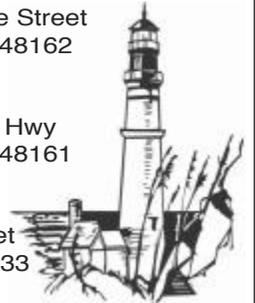
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