



Year in Review

Two questions persistently surfaced this past pandemic-infused year and continue to guide the work of the BFL/VEA Hub: **What is essential? What is ours to do?**

At the project level, our Core Team was able to discern the need for sustained “feeding” of congregational leaders, weary and grieving from all things COVID-19. We also recognized the importance of strengthening local and regional support to sustain the focus on forming Christians who are confident about their baptismal identity and vocation. In response, we introduced The Well, a weekly drop-in Zoom gathering for prayer, scripture reflection, and conversation led by our spiritual directors. Attendance has been strong and steady.

By increasing the frequency of meetings with our Sponsors in the six participating dioceses we began to establish structures of support to sustain the current BFL/VEA communities beyond our 5-year grant, and to help expand the initiative to additional congregations in the region. As Sponsors have engaged more directly, we are helping the participating congregations move outward, expand their impact and shift their accountability to their judicatory leadership.

The BFL/VEA program design accompanies congregations for up to five years. This model of sustained, resourced relationship has proven to be extremely valuable and seems to be fostering substantial culture change in the congregations that have chosen to engage with us most fully.

As a Hub, questions we are carrying into 2022 as we prepare to “leave well” are, “What about our ecclesiology and polity has enriched BFL/VEA? And, what about it has gotten in the way? To what extent can our experience and learnings working with one denomination inform vocational formation in other denominations?”

See pg. 2 & 3 for monthly activity breakdown



Baptized For Life – 2021 Report on Activities



January

- Began hosting weekly online reflection/prayer groups (Agua de Vida & The Well) – with corresponding expanded website pages
- Weekly leadership team reflection gatherings
- Monthly leadership team agenda meeting
- Ongoing Catechist mtgs per congregation
- Jan web stats: 6,230 visits

February

- BFL members attend Proctor Conference
- Weekly Agua de Vida, The Well, leadership team gatherings
- Monthly leadership team agenda mtg
- Ongoing Catechist mtgs per congregation
- Produced and shared 50-minute visioning 2021 video
- Feb web stats: 2,893 visits

March

- Weekly Agua de Vida, The Well, leadership team gatherings
- Monthly leadership team agenda mtg
- Quarterly Sponsor mtg
- Ongoing Catechist mtgs per congregation
- Hosted five, one-hour diocesan cohort gatherings (50+ participants)
- Began CLMPI Survey and Focus Group work
- Mar. Web stats: 3,795 visits

April

- Added the Confirmation Collaborative to BFL website (five new pages)
- Weekly Agua de Vida, The Well, leadership team gatherings
- Monthly leadership team agenda mtg
- Ongoing Catechist mtgs per congregation
- Continued CLMPI Survey & Focus Group work
- Apr. web stats: 5,406 visits

May

- Weekly Agua de Vida, The Well, leadership team gatherings
- Monthly leadership team agenda mtg
- Quarterly Sponsor mtg
- Ongoing Catechist mtgs per congregation
- Continued CLMPI Survey and Focus Group work
- May web stats: 5,535 visits

June

- Weekly Agua de Vida, The Well, leadership team gatherings
- Monthly Leadership team agenda mtg
- Ongoing Catechist mtgs per congregation
- Participated in CLMPI summer series
- Jun. web stats: 5,265



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July

- Weekly Agua de Vida, The Well, leadership team gatherings
- Monthly Leadership team agenda mtg
- Ongoing Catechist mtgs per congregation
- Participated in CLMPI summer series
- Baptismal Feast Day Resources – Working Group
- Jul. web stats: 4,870

August

- Ongoing weekly leadership team gatherings
- Monthly Leadership team agenda mtg
- Quarterly Sponsor mtg
- Ongoing Catechist mtgs per congregation
- Baptismal Feast Day Resources – Working Group
- Confirmation Collaborative resource push (website)
- Aug. web stats: 11,162

September

- Weekly leadership team gatherings and The Well
- Monthly Leadership team agenda mtg
- Ongoing Catechist mtgs per congregation
- Baptismal Feast Day Resources – Working Group
- Collegeville Survey results interpretation through Lectio Divina
- Sep. web stats: 11,494

October

- Baptismal Feast Day Resources – launched, 18 documents + two 30-day reflection guides
- Weekly leadership team gatherings and The Well
- Monthly Leadership team agenda mtg
- Ongoing Catechist mtgs per congregation
- Clergy gathering – fellowship and 2022 visioning
- CLMPI book study (Patrick Reyes)
- Collegeville Survey results interpretation through Lectio Divina
- Facebook – 30 days countdown to All Saints
- Oct. web stats: 7,593

November

- Weekly leadership team gatherings and The Well
- Monthly leadership team agenda mtg
- Quarterly Sponsor mtg
- Ongoing Catechist mtgs per congregation
- Northern Indiana diocesan convention speakers/presentation
- Preparation for author Susan Beaumont hosted webinar series 2022
- Facebook – 30 days of Baptismal Living – Saints
- Nov. web stats: 8,669

2022 major gatherings

- Susan Beaumont Hosted Event – four live webinar sessions Jan 11 & 18, Feb 8 & 15, plus asynchronous workshop meetings (60+ participants)
- May Core Team Leadership Retreat – Planning for October project-wide Residency
- Diocesan Cohort Learning Communities
- October 12–26, Project Culmination Residency, Camp McDowell, Alabama

Report on Congregational Activities

On November 13, 2021, the Diocese of Northern Indiana asked Baptized for Life (BFL) to be the main presenters for their 123rd Diocesan convention hosted locally by deaneries via zoom. BFL has three participating faith communities from this diocese (St. Paul's; St. Thomas/Santo Tomás; and Gethsemane). Each gave a presentation. For this video, we have highlighted the offering provided by Gethsemane Episcopal Church. The first half of this video addresses the convention attendees and centers them in an understanding of BFL and an overview of the work done with us in the last year by each participating group. **The second half of the video is the story of calling, meaning, and purpose from the clergy and lay team of Gethsemane, beginning at the 21:43 minute mark.**

[Video link](#)