Dear ALL,

This is not the most felicitous greeting, but I do mean every member of the Catholic Community at Stanford.

Most parishes have a Pastoral Council to advise the Pastor and Staff. I tried some years ago to start one, but the response was too small. I want to challenge you to step up to leadership.

I just don’t want a regular Pastoral Council, but one that includes the voices and the energy from the breadth of our Community. Hence, I am calling it the Intra-Community Council (ICC). Unlike most parishes, we have very distinct groups, i.e., Undergraduates, Graduates, Doctoral candidates, faculty, staff, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd parents, the GSB as well as the Medical and Law School ad hoc groups. We have alumni, emeriti, those who love Stanford and those who simply love to worship with us. All are welcome.

Most Pastoral Councils are advisory but are tempted to give the Pastor and Staff marching orders. I can’t add more work to an already stretched staff who give heart and soul! They truly go the extra-mile. We need to surface a whole new cadre of worker-leaders. Example: We all love a party or want to serve the poor. Being asked to host more events is wonderful, but what we really need are leaders, who know, invite and organize others into helping-hand teams.

The Town Hall and the Dream Team expressed a great desire to have more intra-community events for people to meet, socialize, pray, learn, and help others. But that can only happen with more ideas and hands. (I am not saying every event should be open to all; different groups need to have their own identity; on the other hand, we don’t want to keep groups in silos.) We are like a very large family; we need more family events!

If you are interested in throwing your name into the selection process or want to suggest the name of someone, contact me at 650-291-4590, or email me at xavierop@stanford.edu or better at our new email for the ICC: mycatholiccommunitydream@gmail.com

A Word of Thanks

I want to thank the Dream Team. They put in hours! The full report and the executive summary are on the website, www.stanfordcatholic.org. (Those in bold are part of the Transitional Team).

Dream Team:

- Maria Barba (Class of 2017, Jesuit Volunteers, Elementary School Teacher, Graduate of UCLA Teacher Education Program 2020)
• Walker Brown (Class of 2019, 2nd Assistant at United Talent Agency)
• Alan Chiu (GSB Alumni, Class of 2011, CEO at Enya, Co-President at Stanford Angels, Entrepreneur)
• Terry Connelly, (Dean Emeritus of Ageno School of Business)
• Steven Howell (Class of 2019, CEO & Career Coach, Howell Coaching)
• Katie Hufker (Class of 2018, Facebook Software Engineer)
• Katherine Shreve Lazo (Assistant Athletics Director - Engagement, Stanford)
• Alicia Restrepo (Associate Director, Capital Projects & Project Management, Stanford)
• Dr. Thomas Plante Ph.D. (Professor of Psychology & Director of Applied Spirituality, Santa Clara University, Adjunct Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Stanford School of Medicine)
• J.D. Schram (Founder of Mastery in Communication Initiative at the Graduate School of Business)
• Tom Zigterman (Director of Water Resources & Civil Infrastructure, Stanford)

We are only as vital as our spiritual commitment and mutual engagement. Let’s not merely “do” Church, let’s “be” the Catholic Church at Stanford.

Blessings,
Fr. Xavier OP