

Therefore,  
go and make disciples

of *All*  
nations  
*Matthew 28:19*



**Formed in 2022 as a Pilot Family for the Diocese of Buffalo's Road to Renewal, the Beloved Disciples of Christ the Lord Roman Catholic Family of Parishes is comprised of 6 Parishes in Central Erie County.**

**With Parishes from Bowmansville, Depew, Cheektowaga, and Lancaster, they have been working to better understand what it is to work together as a Family and help pave the way in the process of building a Family of Parishes as it begins to spread to more areas in the Diocese.**

**Basing their new calling on a verse from the Gospel of Matthew, the BDCL Family will be focusing on not only bringing the Good News to their current Parishioners, but is excited to find new ways of reaching out to those in our communities to bring the Word to them as well.**

**Through working together and sharing resources better, our Family of Parishes hopes to strengthen our bonds, renew our connections with each other and our Faith, and to bring others to the Faith.**

### What Parishes are in our Family?

**Our Lady of Pompeii Parish (Lancaster),  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish & Diocesan Shrine  
(Bowmansville),  
St. Martha Parish (Depew),  
St. Mary of the Assumption (Lancaster),  
St. Philip the Apostle Parish (Cheektowaga),  
& St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish (Depew).**

### Why a lily as the logo?

**The lily we use as our logo has many levels of meaning for our Family of Parishes.**

**On this lily there are six petals,  
one for each of our Parishes.**

**These petals come together to represent us coming together as a Family and in the center of the flower are three stamen to represent the Trinity and our Faith.**

**The lily itself is a symbol for Mary, who many of our Parishes are dedicated to. It also stands for renewing social connections, hope, faith, renewal, transitioning, remembrance, and the beauty experienced when we seek to renew spiritual relationships.**

**As our Family works towards coming together, we hope to remember our individual pasts and transition into creating a brighter future together.**

### Why Beloved Disciples of Christ the Lord?

The name began as an attempt to represent all the Parishes.

With many attempts to try and find saints or special Biblical places as a centerpiece for our name, the idea of taking the initials of each of our cities or towns and creating a phrase seemed more and more promising.

Bowmansville, Depew, Cheektowaga, Lancaster...

BDCL – Beloved Disciples of Christ the Lord.

After much thought, the phrase finally became clear and after a round of Parishioner voting, the official Family name was chosen.

This term “Beloved Disciple” is most known as coming from the writings of St. John the Evangelist. In his Gospel, he often writes of the Beloved Disciple as being especially close to Christ.

It is often assumed that this is John, though scholars are quick to point out that no one is ever named. There are many possible reasons for John to be regarded as such, but several years ago a different possibility for not identifying the Beloved Disciple was noted.

Some scholars have suggested that each person reading or listening to the Gospel is a Beloved Disciple and can place themselves into the Gospel story.

When the Beloved Disciple reclines next to Jesus at the Last Supper, it is YOU who is sitting next to Jesus as He gives us Himself in the Eucharist.

When Jesus sees the Beloved Disciple with His Mother, Mary, at the foot of the Cross and He gives her to the Disciple, He is giving Mary to YOU to be your mother as well.

We are all Beloved Disciples and that title becomes an appropriate name as we begin our new existence to help remember that every individual is important.