



ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX • ST. ISIDORE • ST. FRANCIS – ST. MAXIMILIAN

MSGR. JOHN KASZA, MODERATOR

As the Moderator of the Family of Parishes comprising St. Francis/St. Maximilian, St. Isidore, and St. Therese, on behalf of the other priests in solidum, I wanted to give you an update as to what has been happening here in our Family.

In short, our three parishes will be making a more direct and concerted effort to work together as a team by sharing our time and talent to better serve all of the people in the Shelby Township, Macomb, and Ray Township area. As a Family, we want to use our non-financial pooled resources to have a greater impact in sharing the Gospel and inviting people to follow Jesus more closely. To this end, we have been engaged in many behind the scenes activities which I'd like to share.

For the past year, we have been studying the Playbook which was created by the Archdiocese of Detroit to help

us implement the new reality of Family of Parishes (FOP for short). The priests (Fr. Ron Victor, Fr. Chris Talbot, Fr. Matt Ellis, and I) met several times to create a covenant or working agreement of how we as priests in solidum (or priests working as a team to serve every parish in the Family) would relate to one another and to our parishes.

Second, we have appointed six directors to oversee the newly created model for missionary discipleship. This model envisions six divisions which assist in moving us to a more mission-oriented outlook on how we function as a Church: Discipleship Formation (formerly Religious Education/Formation) is headed by Peggy Casing; Engagement (created to encompass evangelization, ecumenism, advertising, and communications) will be directed by Matt Kush; Evangelical Charity (formerly

called Christian Service) gathers together all of our care ministries and community outreach programs and will be overseen by John Karski; Family Ministries (created to coordinate all of the programs and fraternal groups that are not covered in other areas will serve parishioners from womb to tomb such as marriage ministry, family ministry support groups, and the Knights of Columbus. This will be headed by Christopher Piebiak; Worship covers all the aspects of liturgical life and ministry in our family that help us to praise God, such as liturgical ministries, music ministries, decorating, and prayer groups. Rebecca Poupard is the director for this area. The newly created Director of Mission Support covers all of the aspects of parish/FOP administration such as Human Resources, Business Management, accounting, information technology, and facilities



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management. Christopher Kozlowski will oversee this most important task. However, while these directors have their own responsibilities, they will function as a team along with the priests and other lay leadership to ensure that the FOP runs smoothly.

Third, we have formed two lay leadership bodies which assist the moderator and directors to keep their fingers on the pulse of the Family so to speak. These are the Family Finance Team comprised of

two members from each of the parish finance councils and the Family Pastoral Council composed of a number of individuals recommended by either the directors or clergy or those who volunteered to serve on this body. These two groups will meet quarterly to offer their advice and counsel on the direction of our FOP.

From time to time, I will keep you updated on what is going on in our FOP through articles. I encourage everyone to read more about this new initiative

in the archdiocese by going to aodonline.org and clicking the Family of Parishes tab as well as the Unleash the Gospel tab. There you will find a plethora of information.

Please continue to pray for all of us as we embark on this new adventure. We ask the intercession of our patrons: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Isidore the Farmer, and St. Therese of Lisieux to guide us as we become joyful missionary disciples unleashing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Msgr. John Kasza

Moderator & priest *in solidum*

