

Catholic Community of Sellersburg

St. Joe Hill Parish
2605 St. Joe Road West
Sellersburg, IN 47172
812.246.2512

St. Paul Parish
216 Schellers Ave.
Sellersburg, IN 47172
812.246.3522

August, 6, 2014

The Most Rev. Joseph Tobin
Archbishop of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dear Archbishop Tobin,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and on behalf of the Catholic Community of Sellersburg, St. Joseph Hill Parish and St. Paul Parish.

I am writing as a follow-up to our parishes' request to be merged into a new parish community. After your approval of our request, you asked us to submit to you three possible names for the new parish community. Our Long Range Planning Team conducted a process for the selection of the three names. All parishioners were invited first to submit possible names. There were about 50 different names submitted. Next, the Long Range Planning Team selected fourteen of those names that were placed on a ballot and sent to all parishioners. Each parishioner could select three names in order of preference. A first place vote was given 3 points, a second place vote, 2 points and a third place vote, 1 point. A copy of the 14 names and the ballot are enclosed for your benefit.

Based upon the voting of our parishioners, we are submitting the following names for your consideration:

Saints Joseph and Paul Catholic Church (1131 points)

Saint John Paul II Catholic Church (751 points)

Saint Benezet Catholic Church (432 points)

Regarding the date of our formation into the new parish, in conjunction with our Long Range Planning Team, I would recommend the first Sunday of Advent (November 30, 2014) as the start date for the new parish. Of course, I leave all of this to your discretion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I await your response.

Sincerely,



Rev. Thomas E. Clegg
Pastor
St. Joseph Hill and St. Paul Parishes

PARISH NAME BALLOT

The following is a complete tabulation of the voting for the name of the new parish. 957 ballots were submitted. **I REMIND EVERYONE THAT THIS VOTE IS NOT BINDING FOR THE ARCHBISHOP. HE CAN STILL CHOOSE ANY NAME HE WISHES FOR THE PARISH.** On the reverse side is the letter that I sent to Archbishop Tobin this week.

Fr. Tom and the Long Range Planning Team

NAME	POINTS
Saints Joseph and Paul Catholic Church	1131
St. John Paul II Catholic Church	751
St. Benezet Catholic Church	432
Christ our Hope Catholic Church	342
Divine Mercy Catholic Church	320
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church	309
St. Mother Theodore Guerin Catholic Church	290
Resurrection Catholic Church	228
St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church	214
St. Padre Pio Catholic Church	150
St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church	107
St. John Bosco Catholic Church	103
Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church	72
Church of the Transfiguration or Transfiguration Catholic Church	31

What's the Latest?

A Publication of the Catholic Community of Sellersburg

Volume 1, Issue 2

July/August 2014

Long Range Planning Team Submits Possible Names for New Parish

The Catholic Community of Sellersburg Long Range Planning Team is pleased to submit to all parishioners the following names for consideration for our new parish. These names were taken from over 50 names submitted by parishioners. Each of the names selected were submitted by more than one person and some of the reasons for each submission is included. We have also included with the newsletter this month a ballot for all parishioners to vote for the names we will be submitting to the archbishop. Please read the ballot carefully, follow the instructions, and return it to the parish office (via mail, email or collection basket) no later than August 3.



Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

We are two communities coming together to worship and serve God. Receiving the Eucharist increases our love for God and for one another which makes us more like Christ. The Holy Eucharist is the basis for our faith.



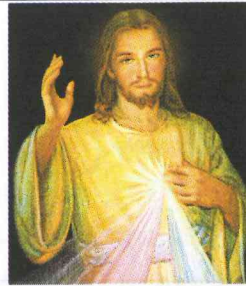
Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Hope is one of the Cardinal virtues of our Church, along with Faith and Love. I like the idea of naming our parish after our Savior rather than one of the saints. I think that Christ Our Hope gives us a great vision for our future founded on Jesus Christ, who is and always will be our only Hope!



Church of the Transfiguration

I am recommending the Church of the Transfiguration because I think this is what our parishes need to be about. We are about the changing from two parishes into one. This is a transfiguration of sorts and I think this name fits.



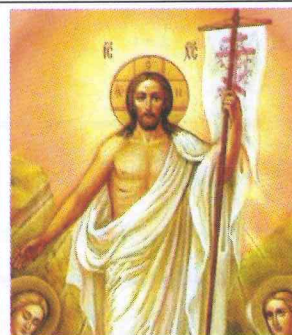
Divine Mercy Catholic Church

God's mercy is needed in our world. Many people around the world and in our parishes have a devotion to the Divine Mercy of God.



Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church

This name is a powerful reminder of the guidance Mary can provide our two parishes as we work to come together as one community. Through the Blessed Mother's intercession, we can grow together into one faith family.



Resurrection Catholic Church

I like this name because I believe we will rise to new life as we merge our two parishes together. This name signifies the Paschal Mystery, both the dying and the rising we encounter each day in our lives as disciples of Jesus. I think this name will offer hope to all who reflect on the meaning of Christ's resurrection in our lives.



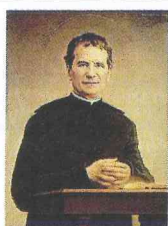
Saint Benezet Catholic Church

"I spent most of the day trying to find a saint whose name would be of significance for what we are trying to accomplish as we merge our parishes together. I found St. Benezet who is the patron saint of bridge building. I think in many ways, that is what we are trying to do. We are building bridges between our two parishes, but we could also extend this further to building bridges between our parish and other churches and our parish and the larger community."

St. Benezet was a shepherd boy living in France in the 12th century when God told him to build a bridge because too many people were trying to cross the waters of the Rhone River in present day Avignon. People initially ridiculed him until they saw the small boy carrying boulders that even grown men could not lift. Although some of the bridge was destroyed in a flood, portions of the bridge still stand today. St. Benezet's casket, which was buried in a chapel on the bridge, was washed away during the flood. When opened his body was uncorrupted.

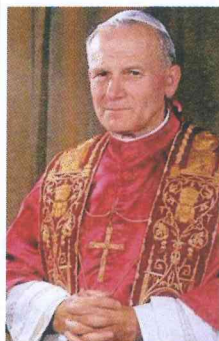
I can even picture a bridge as the entryway to our new Church with a statue of St. Joseph on one side and St. Paul on the other along with plaques that speak to the history of our two parishes which was "bridged together" by St. Benezet.

This name is unique as well. We would be the only parish named this in the US.



St. John Bosco Catholic Church

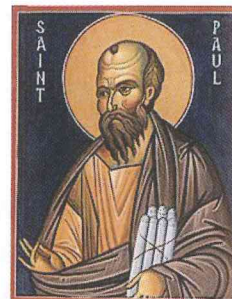
St. John Bosco is my favorite saint and he loved kids. Popularly known as Don Bosco, he was an Italian priest, educator and writer who lived in the 19th century. He dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth.



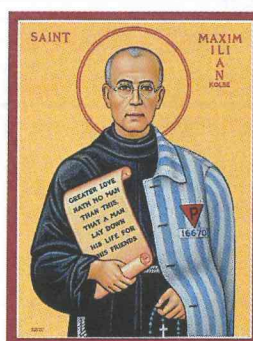
St. John Paul II Catholic Church

Pope John Paul II lived an incredible life and is a testimony to faith in God. He lived in this century and believed that youth were the future of our Church. He also started World Youth Day. We need a saint that will appeal to all ages and St. John Paul does that.

Saints Joseph and Paul Catholic Church



By combining the names of the two patrons of our current parishes we keep the history of our two parishes alive. Our long history is to be treasured and combining these names allow us to do just that. Since we cannot use the name "Two Saints" this keeps that history alive.



St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church

St. Maximilian was a Polish Conventual Franciscan friar, who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the Nazi German death camp of Auschwitz, located in German-occupied Poland during World War II.

Kolbe was canonized on 10 October 1982 by Pope John Paul II, and declared a Martyr of Charity. He is the patron saint of drug addicts, political prisoners, families, journalists, prisoners, and the pro-life movement. John Paul II declared him "The Patron Saint of Our Difficult Century".

Due to Kolbe's efforts to promote consecration and entrustment to Mary, he is known as the Apostle of Consecration to Mary.



St. Mother Theodore Guerin Catholic Church

St. Mother Theodore Guerin, also known as St. Theodora, is the first saint from Indiana. Born in France, Mother Theodore Guerin came to Indiana and founded the Srs. Of

Providence at our Lady of the Woods near Terre Haute. The Sisters of Providence have been influential in our diocese and deanery staffing several parishes (including St. Paul's) and high schools, including the founding of Our Lady of Providence High School. I believe having our parish named for a saint who walked the same grounds we walk would be a blessing for our new parish.



St. Padre Pio Catholic Church

Padre Pio was born on May 25, 1887 in Italy to a simple peasant family. At the age of 15 he became a Franciscan Friar in central Italy. On September 20, 1918, Fr. Pio after celebrating Mass received the "stigmata"- the wounds of Christ on his hands, feet and side. Doctors estimated that for the

next 50 years of his life, he lost a cup of blood every day. People began to seek him out because of his holiness often waiting 2 weeks to go to confession to him. He lived to the age of 81, dying on September 23, 1968. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2002.



St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

We need the protection of the angels to watch over and guard our parish. I have always felt that the angels are there to guide us and to deliver messages from our God.

How The Name Selection Process Works

The fourteen names that you see were submitted by parishioners in the month of June.

The Long Range Planning Team looked at the 50 names submitted. They first eliminated those that had only one submission.

Archbishop Tobin has asked us to submit three possible names for the new parish to him. We are inviting all parishioners to help us select the final three.

Each parishioner will now be given the opportunity to cast a ballot for the three. That ballot is enclosed with this email or mailing.

We ask each parishioner to list their first, second and third choice by writing the numbers 1, 2 and 3 beside those choices.

You must sign the ballot and print your name along with your parish. This will be our way of determining that each parishioner has only one vote.

Ballots must be returned to the Parish Office no later than August 3. You can return them by mail, by collection basket, or drop them by either Parish Office.

Once the ballots are tabulated by the Long Range Planning Team, the final three will be announced by Fr. Tom and submitted to the Archbishop, who will make the final decision.

The Long Range Planning Team thanks all parishioners who submitted names for consideration. It is our hope to include parishioners in every aspect of this process from now until we are officially one parish in one location.

As always we invite your questions, comments and concerns. You can submit any of those to either Parish Office to the attention of Fr. Tom or The Long Range Planning Team.

Frequently Asked Questions

By Fr. Tom Clegg

A Note from Fr. Tom: In each issue of "What's the Latest," I will write a column called "Frequently Asked Questions." These will be questions I have heard. I believe the question one person asks is often shared by others.

Q. What are the next steps in the process and when will we be considered one parish?

The next step is to select the name for the parish. We are in the midst of that process right now. After we submit the suggested names to Archbishop Tobin, he will notify us when he makes his decision regarding the name for the new parish. At that time, he will also ask us when we would like to be known as that parish. In my mind, the name we choose will help determine when we would want to be known by the name of the new parish. For instance, if the name St. John Paul II is chosen, we might choose his feast day (October 22) or the closest Sunday to that (October 19). If there is no logical date associated with the feast of the name chosen, we would probably recommend November 30, 2014, which is the start of the new liturgical year.

Q. What happens to all of the buildings on both campuses at the time we become one parish?

When we officially become one parish we will continue to operate the buildings on both campuses. We will do that until we no longer need them. At that time, we will decide what to do with the buildings we are not using. They could be sold. They could be "re-purposed" (that is used for something differently than how they are being used now). In either case, these are decisions that will probably be made down the road after we choose the final location of the new parish.

Q. What legal things need to happen when we become one parish?

There are two things that we have to examine here: church law and civil law. What happens according to church law is that the Archbishop first starts a new parish in our area. That parish begins on the date of his choosing and with the name he selects. He then closes each of the existing parishes. **It is important to understand that when I say close the parish it does not mean close the buildings.** The buildings will stay open under the direction of the new parish. We will be "St. Whatever Parish" with the St. Joe Hill Campus and with the St. Paul Campus. We will continue to operate both Churches and the school in their current locations.

With regard to civil law, I will be asking John Frossard, our business manager to look into the what we have to do as far as things like incorporation, tax exempt status for the new parish, etc.

Q. How long do you think it will take for us to be in one location?

That's a really difficult question to answer because there are so many unknown variables right now. We feel it is best to wait for the Connected in the Spirit (the archdiocesan planning process) to take place in our deanery before we choose a final location for our parish. We feel this way because what happens to the parishes around us may impact our decision about the best location for our parish facilities. The archbishop has not announced when Connected in the Spirit will happen in our deanery. All he has said is that he hopes that it happens "sooner rather than later." I would anticipate that to mean that it might begin the fall of 2014 or the spring of 2015. The process usually takes 18-24 months from start to finish. After that process is complete, then we will have the necessary information to make our best decisions.

After that, it will take us several years to raise the money to do whatever needs to be done no matter what location we choose. All in all, I see this as a long-term process taking many years (5-10 or more) for its completion.

Q. What can we do to help now?

Pray! Keep an open mind. Don't gossip. Ask questions. Be positive. And did I mention, Pray!

If you have a question you would like answered here, please send it to Fr. Tom Clegg. You can mail it to either parish office or drop it in the collection basket to Fr. Tom's attention. You can also email them to him at t.clegg@twc.com. He would ask that you sign the question. He will not publish the names in the article, but it will be helpful to him so that he can address you personally if need be.

St. Joe Hill Parish

2605 St. Joe Road West

Sellersburg IN 47172.

St. Paul Parish

216 Schellers Ave.

Sellersburg, IN 47172

PARISH NAME BALLOT

Help us select the name for our new parish. Each adult parishioner and each child who has made his/her first communion is invited to help in the selection process for the new name of our parish. If you need more ballots for your family, you may duplicate this ballot or find additional ballots at Church. However, only one ballot per parishioner.

From the fourteen names below, please put a 1 beside your first choice, a 2 beside your second choice, and a 3 beside your third choice. All ballots must be signed (along with your printed name) at the bottom of the page and must list your parish. Ballots must be returned by August 3, 2014.

_____ Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

_____ Christ our Hope Catholic Church

_____ Church of the Transfiguration or Transfiguration Catholic Church

_____ Divine Mercy Catholic Church

_____ Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church

_____ Resurrection Catholic Church

_____ St. Benezet Catholic Church

_____ St. John Bosco Catholic Church

_____ St. John Paul II Catholic Church

_____ Saints Joseph and Paul Catholic Church

_____ St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church

_____ St. Padre Pio Catholic Church

_____ St. Mother Theodore Guerin Catholic Church

_____ St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

Name (printed) _____

Name (signed) _____

Parish _____