

# FAMILY of PARISHES TRANSITION TEAM MINUTES

May 25, 2021

7:30pm

Zoom Conference Video

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**Meeting called by:** Chris Doyle

**Facilitator:** Chris Doyle

**Note taker:** Annie Ferrera

**Attendees:**

Fr. Brian Jane, Fr. José Montepeque, Fr. Anthony Eboh, Fr. Jan Burczyk Deacon David Cummings, Leanne Moran, Leonia Downie, Chris Doyle, Annie Ferrera, Bill Nelson, Jay Stewart, Katherine Stoesser, Armando Notte, Regina Croskery, Amanda Cimetta, Roman Norejko, Stella Burns, Mark Roehler, Sylvie Chmielewski, Andrew Jones

**Regrets:** Scott Kellett

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## MINUTES

1. **Call to Order & Welcome:** Chris Doyle
2. **Previous Minutes & Agenda:** no changes
3. **Opening Prayer:** Leonia Downie led the team in prayer, scripture (Mt28:16-20) followed by reflection and the Prayer of Unity.
4. **Rectory & Office Location Presentation:** Chris Doyle  
Chris presented a PowerPoint detailing 2 options for reorganization of offices and staff. Before putting this plan together, he did extensive research and consulted Business Managers in established Families. The proposal has been shared with the Pastoral team and will be discussed at the next Finance meeting. The Transition Team was asked for input on the proposed options.  
Criteria used to develop plan:
  - Efficiency
  - Team building
  - Problem solving
  - How best to use space
  - How best to serve the community
  - Best use of human resources
  - Focus on needs/equipment of the Family not of individual specific parishes
  - Cost of relocation including construction

Option 1: - preferred option

- Move all pastoral and office staff to St. Benedict; satellite offices at Sacred Heart, St. Michael, St. Thomas d'Aquin and Queen of Peace (to be reviewed in 9 months)
- Minor construction required
- Lots of room to accommodate everyone because of unused office space on second floor
- Expand office for Leanne Moran on 1<sup>st</sup> floor by combining 2 smaller offices into 1 (removing wall separating the two offices)
- 1<sup>st</sup> floor office available for new pastor coming to Family
- Move all financial services upstairs (Lisa & Cathy)
- Business manager, youth minister (if hired) and deacon offices on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- Extra space available on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for more offices as needed
- Secretaries all working on main floor

- Maintain presence at St. Thomas D'Aquin with Sylvie splitting her hours between STA & main office
- Maintain presence at Sacred Heart & St. Michael with Michelle 2 half days at Sacred Heart & Cathy 2 half days at St. Michael.
- Maintain presence at Queen of Peace with part time secretary
- Phone lines all routed to VOIP and answered from one location 5 days/week, 9-5
- allows for quick response and planning by Fr Brian if all are at one location

#### Option 2: not the preferred option

- 2 locations; St. Benedict & Sacred Heart
- Split staff
- Major renovations needed at Sacred Heart to expand needed office space
- Not as efficient for team building, communications
- Running 2 separate organizations

#### Questions/Discussion

- Is there extra space for meetings at St. Benedict: yes, there are 2 meeting rooms on first floor, the hall and extra space on the 2nd floor.
- What about the other church offices: each parish will have dedicated office space for secretaries and for priests, deacons, lay ecclesial ministers to meet with parishioners when needs arise.
- Where will priests live: it is hoped that 3 priests will live in the newly renovated rectory at Sacred Heart, Fr. Jose and Fr. Jan will remain in their rectories at St. Thomas d'Aquin and Queen of Peace.
- What happens to the St. Michael rectory: Chris is meeting with the Diocese this week to discuss the sale of that property.
- How will empty space be used: there will be more space available for groups to meet (CWL, KofC, bible studies, Alpha, Faith Formation, Youth Ministry etc.)

#### Comments:

It is very important for all of us to support the decision regardless of which option we prefer. There will be a sense of loss but there is hope for growth. We have been given an opportunity to come together as a family and we have to remember that we are stronger together than apart. We all want what is best for the Church. The team was encouraged to talk with Chris if they have concerns or questions.

When parishioners approach us with questions we cannot answer, we should direct them to Father Brian or Chris.

#### **5. Transfer to Parish Pastoral Council: Father Brian**

When a new pastor is transferred to a parish, the existing Parish Pastoral Council is dissolved and new members are appointed. The pastor can choose to ask previous members to return to the new council. With the new Family of Parishes, all existing parish pastoral councils will no longer exist as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Father Brian extended an invitation to all members of the Transition Team to participate in the new Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes Pastoral Council. The Transition Team has had a very important role in forming the new Family. Father Brian would like everyone to continue the journey as a Pastoral Council. Father Brian asks that we contact him before June 15<sup>th</sup> if we decide not to continue as a member of the new Council.

#### **6. Communication: Annie Ferrera**

Logo: Annie presented the new logo that has been approved for the Family. The logo will be unveiled to parishioners in this week's bulletins and added to the website.



**Rising sun with 7 rays:** Our seven parishes coming together (Acts 2:3 - Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.)

**The cross:** our salvation through Christ's sacrifice, redemption, atonement, suffering, faith. (Ephesians 2:15-17 -

He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility

through it. So, he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.)

**The white dove:** The Holy Spirit (John 1:32 - And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.)

**The blue waves:** our parishes' geographical location, Sarnia Bluewater

**Celebration Steering Committee:** Joanna Giresi is heading this committee. The group has met twice and is developing an idea that would involve all 7 parishes. The proposal involves holding a Eucharistic Procession beginning on July 4<sup>th</sup> and continuing for 7 consecutive Sundays, ending on August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Assumption, at Our Lady of Mercy. Each parish would be encouraged to plan their event and parishioners from all 7 parishes will be encouraged to participate in all 7 processions. Guidelines will be established to ensure all Covid-19 restrictions and protocols are observed. The processions could include representatives from the many parish organizations, music, prayer etc. Chris and Annie are meeting with the health department this week to see if this proposal is feasible and the steering committee will meet next week to iron out details.

Also being planned is a video presentation to be used on the website, YouTube, Facebook. The presentation will include interviews with each member of the Pastoral Team. The committee recommended that a commemorative booklet be produced to mark the occasion with information on all 7 churches, each member of the Pastoral Team and a message from Bishop Fabbro. Flags/banners to be placed outside all churches are being sourced. More details will be available at the next meeting.

**7. Pastoral Ministers Update:** Leanne Moran, Leonia Downie

Leanne and Leonia presented how they will be dividing their responsibilities to better serve the Family. Leanne will be responsible for First Communion, First Reconciliation, Confirmation and Vacation Bible School. Leonia will be responsible for Baptism and RCIA (grade 9 to adult), weddings (or the Sacrament of Marriage), and Marriage prep. Both will share ministry to all elementary and secondary schools, parish life and outreach ministries, Liturgy, Funerals, Called, Gifted, Sent (volunteers), Liturgy of the Word with children and will support Family and Youth Ministry. Altar server ministry will be overseen by Deacons.

**8. Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 7:30 PM on Zoom