

## **Collaboration Meeting March 16, 2022**

The letter approved last month was mailed out to about 1,400 people. The members of the parishes gave reports related to the letter, phone calls, email and personal conversations with parishioners. Overall, about 100 people responded or about 7% from the letter campaign.

Overall Model 1 of combining into one parish was the favored. It was recognized that Model 2 wasn't practical for one pastor to handle moving forward. If accepted by the Bishop the new parish would become effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

If the Bishop accepts the recommendation to combine into one parish and it is publicized afterwards, a 2<sup>nd</sup> request for suggestions for a new parish name will be sought. From all the suggestions, the top 10 will be put out for another round of voting. The goal would be to have several votes to ultimately suggest 3 possible names to the Bishop.

The Legacy of Hope campaign receipts have been deposited in three separate restricted Diocesan Expansion Fund accounts: St. James, St. Mary, and St. Philip. This money will not be comingled if a merger of the parishes is accepted by the Bishop. Canon law requires that the intentions of the donors be honored and the money will be used toward the cases which were outlined by each parish at the time of the campaign.

The committee agreed to recommend the Bishop combine the three parishes into one new parish. A letter to that effect was signed by all present.

A rough draft of a master calendar was reviewed by the committee. This master calendar included the large events held by each parish. However, it was noted that there are many smaller ministries present at each parish. All the ministries would need to be noted and detailed. It was suggested that maybe the pastoral council could become the project manager for this task.

With an acceptance by the Bishop comes much work to be completed. The fiscal group on this committee has been developing a five- year trending picture to assist the new parish. It was suggested that this is the time to reach out to the parishes for people to assist in areas of their expertise.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>.