

FROM THE PASTOR...

February 7, 2021

Some parish updates... We are just entering Phase III of the Archdiocese's Renew My Church plan for parishes, which is the "Building the New Reality" phase. The goal of the unification wasn't just for a structural streamlining based on the realities the Church is facing locally, but ultimately for a re-evangelization of the neighborhood. Christ is still risen and is calling us to follow Him. God-willing, in the coming months we will be able to gather people with hospitality and the faith formational opportunities that will help bring about some renewal.

Where are we now in Phase III? We have just formed a new Finance Council that has at least one member from each of the merging parishes; Bill O'Hara, Tim Jacobs, Donna Quirk, John Fiore and our Operations Director, Kathy Collins. These are all highly competent, faithful, and dedicated parishioners and we are blessed that they have said yes to the call. We will update the budgets for both parish and school, review the facilities reports to prioritize campus needs, and begin parish fund-raising as possible, among other things. Our first meeting is February 18th.

The next committee that will begin being formed is the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) which will also be comprised of people from all three merging parishes. The goal of the PPC is to "examine and consider all that relates to pastoral work and to offer practical conclusions on these matters, so that the life and activity of the People of God can be brought into greater conformity with the Gospel" (Pope Paul VI). This council will take some time to form, so please continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to grant us wisdom and a deeper faith.

As in the Operations Transition (Phase II), we have some qualified personnel from the Vicariate office assigned to help me and the parish in Building the New Reality. Sara Pekar (our Parish Vitality Coordinator) and Brian Romer Niemec (the Lifelong Formation Coordinator) are both faithful and dedicated to helping St. Elizabeth of the Trinity take the next steps in our evangelization efforts. They will be helping in the formation of the Evangelization team and how best to create a Parish Pastoral Council.

Ultimately, in the coming years, the goal is that we receive more deeply a conviction of Jesus' love for us. We are planning the "soft entries" opportunities for coming to know the Lord, we are all meant to be a part of this renewal. Lent is coming up, please consider taking on as part of your prayer and penance the goal of guiding all of us at St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish to a deeper holiness and union with Christ.

I know this time has not been easy for so many reasons. but the Lord promises to strengthen, guide and heal us as we need:

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to His wisdom there is no limit. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds
(PS 147).

Keep the faith.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Mike

