

Meeting of the Transition team for our family of parishes

Monday Feb. 24/20 at 6:30 pm – St. Angela Parish Hall

In attendance: Frank Gualtieri, Emanuele Calamita, Mary Claire St. Pierre, Annemarie Toldo, Dcn. Gerard Charette, Jonathan Pinto, Sally McQuaid, Kevin McQuaid, Owen Wolter, Fr. Maurice Restivo, Dcn. Paul Bezaire, Jean Beneteau, Marisol Rocha, Mary Ann Smith, Fr. Peter Hrustyk, Ron Parent (proxy), Fr. Steven Huber, Vincent Nwaesei, Carmen Archibald-recording secretary

Regrets: Jason Grossi (sent proxy)

Fr. Maurice began the meeting with a welcome to everyone, gave an overview of the meeting for the evening, and led the opening prayer.

Paul Bezaire led the introductions and went over the agenda for the evening which also gave information on the background of the implementation of the family of parishes. He asked what Family of Parishes means to the members of the Team. Some responses were: Shortage of priests, opportunity for growth, unity.

Read the statement put out from Bishop Fabbro regarding the implementation of the family of parishes (***Diocese of London, Family of Parishes Information Series, Part 1 of 5***) which states: To be missionary-oriented means we must be rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, renewed by the Holy Spirit, refreshed by prayer and radiating joy as we serve others. This is our hope for all our parishes and our vision for the Families of Parishes.

Two other noteworthy statements to help the Transition Teams are as follows:

From Pope Francis: I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation. The renewal of the structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light.

From the Diocesan Directive on the Care of the National Parish: “Throughout the Family gathering process, respect will be afforded to the unique culture... that is found in each of the parishes involved. In Families there are many unique members each with unique gifts, needs, hopes, and concerns. The goal of the Family of Parishes model is not to create a “melting pot” but rather a rich mosaic where each parish is respected and create together a unique picture of the Catholic faith in an area.”

Selecting a name for the family of parishes:

The possibilities were given of collective name choices and an explanation given of why certain names were discussed.

Recommendation: Windsor Heritage Family of Catholic Parishes

Submit for approval to the diocese – **Consensus by all**

Consultation methods to parishioners: Suggested that the information regarding the formation of the Family name should be given from the pulpit by a team representative. A statement will be written as a unison explanation so all parishioners understand the naming process and given in the bulletin or on the individual parish links on the website to respond – **Consensus by all**

Offices: We spoke about the pros and cons of centralizing the offices, with all the staff in one location, vs. Remaining in present locations, or some reconfiguration that involves centralizing some functions with some continuing presence in each of the three parish offices. We also considered the importance of technology, such as a VOIP phone system and online Mass intentions that could make presence and scheduling in multiple locations feasible.

Conclusion: It was difficult to find any substantive reason to relocate staff to a single location. Overall, parishioners are better served and will not feel abandoned if we maintain staff in each parish. The staff at St. Angela Merici clearly prefer to remain at the rectory to receive Mass donations, obtain documents etc. Perhaps there is less walk-in traffic at St. Alphonsus, but people in the downtown generally have less access to a car and are more dependent on walking and using public transit. While the staff there look forward to working together, it appears that the parishioners would benefit by leaving the office open. Assumption has a lot of walk-in traffic because of the University students located on campus and benefit from being available for that purpose. Accessibility to people in the west end who lack transportation is an important consideration. Staff prefer to remain in their parish office. Even without moving staff, job descriptions can be realigned to improve efficiency and job satisfaction. The support team endorses maintaining some presence at each parish to address unique parishioner needs based on language, social and economic needs, as well as mitigating parishioners' potential feelings of being abandoned.

Recommendation: That the Family of Parishes adopt a model of maintaining an office in each parish at least part-time and that consideration be given to re-aligning job descriptions for greater efficiency and utilizing technology such as VOIP and interconnected computer applications to improve communications between offices. If there is some centralization that will be discussed at a later time.

Consensus by all

List of Staff:

We reviewed the list of present staff of our three parishes and two communities. We were reminded that the Diocese plans on assigning another Italian-speaking priest to the Family, since the Scalabrini Fathers will be withdrawing when the Family is activated.

Recommendation: The list to be received as information and was reviewed by all

Communication Plan and Implementation Strategy

Discussion was had regarding web pages for each parish, particularly implementing updated and active web pages for St. Angela Merici and St. Alphonsus. Noted that communications be translated into Italian.

Aim: To seek approval of Phase 1 communication plan to be used during the 6-month period

Conclusion: The Phase 1 communication plan is a cost effective and important aspect to the work of the Transition Team.

Recommendation: That the Phase 1 Communications Plan and implementation strategy be approved and that the communications be prepared by the support team and reviewed by the pastor prior to issuing.

Consensus by all

Receive and review results of public consultation #1 – Name.

Recommendation: To have people with concerns talk to their parish representative, who can field questions and concerns after Mass, and that person will bring it to the Transition Team. A "Town Hall" type meeting will be

held in order to hear concerns. Suggested that people need to submit their thoughts and concerns in writing prior to the meeting. Suggested that when people present their concerns before a meeting it may be disruptive and that the order of business may not be properly covered.

Closing prayer: Fr. Steven Huber

Next meeting: March 9/20 @ 6:30pm at St. Angela in the hall