



St. Peter Claver Catholic Community

July 28, 2020

Welcome to our moment of discernment!

I come to you to “test the spirit.” What parishes does Jesus want us to join to become one family to be sent on mission to renew the “four faces” of our parish?

The survey enclosed is the way the Parish Pastoral Council has chosen to listen to you. On Pentecost Sunday 2020 Archbishop Vigneron called for a way to Unleash the Gospel. He wants all 220 parishes to remain intact. He wants active Catholics to organize their gifts and talents into 60 to 80 families of three to six parishes. He is aware of the diminishing number of ordained and confirmed Catholics. He is asking us to discern how to organize our assets and limitations to inspire enthusiasm as joyful missionary disciples.

The details to determine “families of parishes” are a work-in-progress. The objective is for the 16 vicars to work with their parishes to find God’s will for His people. The final recommendation to the Archbishop is set for All Saints Day. The announcement of the “families” is to be the first Sunday of Advent. ***For frequently asked questions (and answers) regarding Families of Parishes, go online to <https://www.familiesofparishes.org/faq/>.***

In 2019 the 11 parishes of our Vicariate agreed on a common Vision Statement: *Eucharistic people strengthening communities to change the world.* This year, during the pandemic shut-down, representatives from the 11 parishes worked via Zoom video conference to survey each of the four faces of our communities (about 305,000 people) – Active and Passive Catholics, people of other faith traditions, and people of good will – in order to establish a common mission statement for each face. Each parish now is to build its Missionary Strategic Plan in collaboration with one another. *(Note that effective July 1, St. Moses the Black has joined the Trinity Vicariate as its 12th parish.)*

At the monthly meeting of the Confirmed Leadership of the Trinity Vicariate on June 20, I asked how to ensure lay input into the design of the families. The leaders recommended the Vicariate representative(s) from each parish work with their pastoral leadership to receive input. Our Parish Pastoral Council met on July 23, to focus on the question: “Which parishes would we sense are similar and want to support one other in light of their priorities at this moment?”. The decision led to two important considerations:

1. What priorities do we lift up in praise as where we are moving as Active Catholics?
2. Which parishes do we know may be open to accompanying us on living out these priorities among others?

To ensure we get as much input as possible from our parish members, we have developed the enclosed survey. The survey assumes:

1. The integrity of each parish will be intact with no consideration of cluster/merger.
2. The number of parishes in a family will be between 3 and 6.
3. If we want to include parishes outside our Vicariate, we are to share the reason.
4. All recommendations are due to the Archbishop by November 1, 2020.

Please return your response in the enclosed stamped envelope by Friday, August 7.

In the Redeemer through Mary, I am your servant,

Fr. John Phelps, C.Ss.R. - Pastor

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#WEARECHOSENTOBESENT

St. Peter Claver Catholic Community
“Families of Parishes” Survey
July 28, 2020 – Please Return by August 7, 2020

Name: _____

St. Peter Claver’s Parish Pastoral Council has defined four priorities for our parish of “40,000 parishioners” – Active Catholics, Passive Catholics, Other Prayer Communities, and People who don’t know Jesus forgives and loves them. “As Eucharistic People strengthening communities to change the world,” we hear Jesus sending us, focused on the four priorities:

1. Youth/Young Adults
2. Formation focused on Revitalizing our Confirmation Commitment (bible study with purpose) and Chosen to be Sent to the “Four Faces” of the Parish
3. St. Vincent de Paul
4. Loyola High School

Question 1

Do you agree with these four priorities? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

If **No**, what additions, deletions, edits would you recommend?

Question 2

In order of priority (1 being first) which parish(es) do you sense would share our priorities?

- Christ the King _____
- Corpus Christi _____
- Gesu _____
- Presentation/Our Lady of Victory _____
- SS. Peter & Paul _____
- St. Charles Lwanga _____
- St. Juan Diego _____
- St. Mary of Redford _____
- St. Moses the Black _____
- St. Scholastica _____
- St. Suzanne/Our Lady Gate of Heaven _____
- Other (*Specify* _____) _____
Reason for Other _____

Questions and/or Comments
