

May 2021

A TIME TO UNITE

Even as we continue to mourn the death of Fr. Jeff, there is a need to continue implementing the comprehensive master plan for Mother of Perpetual Help which the Archdiocese approved; the vision of moving us forward on our journey to be the Presence of Jesus in our West Allis community, the vision Fr. Jeff was committed to bringing to fruition. Part of that vision is to plan closing masses at each of our current three sites and to move to one worship site beginning July 5th. In light of Fr. Jeff's death, the Archbishop has asked that we reschedule the July date to September 13th (the 5th is Labor Day weekend) in order to give the new pastor, who will assume his position in June, time to familiarize himself with our parish and plan for the transition.

The rescheduling in no means should be misconstrued, the merger of Mother of Perpetual Help to one worship site is not up for reconsideration. The Archbishop has again, in the past week, reaffirmed his support for the move to one site for all the reasons which have been presented in the past. Change is always difficult but as Pilgrim Christians, we are called to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In the end, church is not about buildings or property, but about being God's holy people, celebrating Eucharist together, and bringing Jesus to all. During this transition time we will begin working with our leaders to organize some of our ministries. A committee, working on a volunteer basis (as all our committees do), is working on assembling statues, icons, and other liturgical artwork from all three sites, to be incorporated into our new worship space: honoring the past, while experiencing a rebirth of our Catholic Community. Please know that we are also working on items such as adding more handicapped spaces, reviewing parking lot lighting and other things.

Soon we will have a committee planning the closing mass for St. Al's to take place in April/ May and moving the 7:00 p.m. mass to our worship site at 106th street.

In other parishes which have made similar transitions most have done so with trust and faith in God and have been very successful. A few parishes have had some members who experienced anger, threats of disengagement, and divisive actions. In the end, time proved to bring them healing. It is our hope that we will all embrace this part of our parish journey with charity and understanding; that we remember Fr. Jeff's courage as he faced death and his words "I am not afraid, I am in God's hands". Now, it is time for us to move forward with that same courage, with trust and confidence that Jesus is in charge and He is continually calling MPH to be a unified, loving, serving, faith community.

Fr. Alan, Your Pastoral Council & Finance Council