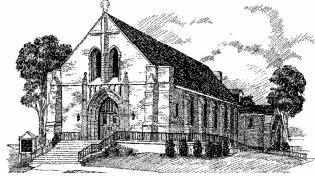


Together in Faith, Peace, and Hope
St. Agnes – St. Paul of the Cross – St. Rose



Frequently Asked Questions

What follows are some “frequently asked questions” (FAQs) that the Transition Team for St. Agnes--St. Paul--St. Rose put together to start the conversation about the upcoming clustering of our three parishes. This is not an exhaustive list of questions—it is just a start and we welcome and encourage additional questions and thoughts from you. Please feel free to talk to any member of the Transition Team about your questions and concerns. We may not have an immediate answer—in fact, it is a certainty that we don’t have all the answers-- but we promise to listen and to answer as many questions and to provide as much information as we can.

The Transition Team includes

From St. Agnes: Sr. Karen Dietz, Deacon Ed Mathis, Tim Hayes, Cheryl Bovard
From St. Rose: Fr. Gross, Tom Crego, Jeanne LaRue, Teri Kruk
From St. Paul of the Cross: Fr. Gross, Lorraine Hoffman, Frank Reynolds
Diocesan Liaison: Karen Rinefield

As we move toward clustering in June of 2010, we ask you to pray—pray for one another, pray for our pastoral leaders, pray that we will hear and follow God’s will, and pray that we support one another in this transition, confident in the certain knowledge that Christ’s Church shall prevail through time.

QUESTION: What does it mean to be "clustered"?

A cluster consists of two or more parishes served by a single pastor or pastoral administrator.

QUESTION: What parishes will be in our cluster and when will the cluster happen?

St. Agnes in Avon, St. Rose in Lima, and St. Paul of the Cross in Honeoye Falls are the parishes involved in our cluster. The cluster will take effect on June 29, 2010.

QUESTION: When parishes are clustered, do the parishes remain as separate entities?

Yes. Under Church and civil law, each parish retains its own separate legal identity and name.

QUESTION: Will any of the churches be closed?

No. The current pastoral plan is not to close any of the three churches.

QUESTION: Do the individual parishes share in one another's collections and other income? Do the individual parishes share in one another's debt obligations? How will the expenses be handled after we cluster?

The income of each parish remains separate.

It needs to be noted that the Finance Councils of St. Paul and St. Rose agreed some time ago to have the loose cash from the collection plate go to the hosting parish, except at Christmas time when the loose cash of the collections is shared equally between the two parishes. All envelopes placed in the collection at any of our three parishes are returned to the parish of origin.

The clustering of the parishes does not make each parish legally responsible for the other parishes' debt obligations. The debt obligations remain with the individual parish.

There will be some expenses shared among the three parishes beginning in June 2010. For example, the salary and benefits of the pastor or pastoral administrator will be a shared expense. When the time comes for planning the 2010-11 budget, the business managers and finance councils of the parishes will meet together to determine which expenses need to be shared, how those shared expenses will be pro-rated among the three parishes, and which parish will be responsible for billing, collecting and reporting shared finances. The budget year for all the parishes runs from July 1 to June 30.

QUESTION: St. Paul and St. Rose have a single Parish Council and have shared a common pastor for a number of years. Are they still separate parishes?

Yes. While the two parishes now share a single parish council, each retains its separate legal identity.

QUESTION: Will our Mass schedule change?

Yes. Our cluster will have one priest assigned to it and that will require us to change our Mass schedule.

QUESTION: How will the Mass schedule be determined?

This fall, the Transition Team will coordinate a process to determine a new Mass schedule. Pastoral Councils, parish staff members, and parishioners at large will be involved and your input will be encouraged and welcomed. Some of the factors that will be considered include setting Mass times to allow sufficient time for the priest to travel between the churches, examining information about current Mass schedules, and working to coordinate Faith Formation classes with Mass schedules.

QUESTION: Who will be in charge of each of the parishes and will we have a priest?

Bishop Clark will appoint a leader for the three parishes. There will be either one pastor leading the three parishes, or a Pastoral Administrator/ Sacramental Minister team. If it is the latter, the Pastoral Administrator will be responsible for providing spiritual leadership to the cluster and direction for administrative functions. The Priest Sacramental Minister will provide sacramental ministry, including presiding at Mass, hearing confessions, and anointing the sick. They will work together to provide spiritual assistance and guidance to parishioners.

We are likely to know who is assigned sometime in the early spring of 2010, with the appointment being effective on June 29, 2010 when Father Gross retires.

QUESTION: If I have a question, how can I get an answer to it?

Please feel free to contact any of the Transition Team members; contact information is noted below. You can also write your question on the tear-off form at the bottom of this document and drop it in the collection basket.

We will be publishing additional FAQs over the coming months, as well as publishing summaries of the Transition Team meetings in the bulletins.

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