

FAMILIES OF PARISHES UPDATE



**UNLEASH
THE GOSPEL**
SENT ON MISSION

December 12, 2020

Dear Friends,

As you know, in the new year the Archdiocese of Detroit will be launching its "Families of Parishes" initiative designed to link each and every parish in the Archdiocese with 3-6 neighboring parishes as a larger faith community.

Earlier this week, the Archdiocese released the official list of "Families," and I am pleased to share that Divine Child will be partnered with: Sacred Heart Parish, Dearborn; St. Anselm Parish, Dearborn Heights; St. Linus Parish, Dearborn Heights; and St. Sabina Parish, Dearborn Heights.

WEST WAYNE VICARIATE FAMILY 1:

Church of the Divine Child Parish | divinechild.org

Sacred Heart Parish | shparish.org

St. Anselm Parish | saintanselmparish.org

St. Linus Parish | stlinuscatholicchurch.org

St. Sabina Parish | stsabina.weconnect.com

Together with these parishes, we have an opportunity to collaborate, learn from each other and more fully *Unleash the Gospel* while continuing our mission of "bringing people to the Lord and answering the call to holiness."

We also know that our parish will be part of the first wave of "Families" to form. Our Family will begin the preparation and discernment phase of this transition in January; however, we will not enter into the implementation phase until July 1, 2021.

In the coming weeks and months, there will be more information to share about "Families of Parishes." Let us remember to pray for our Family and all parishes during this important time in the life of our Archdiocese.

May we seize this opportunity to come together and *Unleash the Gospel*. And, in the spirit of Bl. Solanus Casey, let us thank God in advance for all the blessings he will bestow on us.

God's peace and joy,

Fr. Bob.

Fr. Bob McCabe
Pastor



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How were the *Families of Parishes* groupings chosen?

A: Each family consists of parishes that are geographically contiguous, meaning they border at least one other parish in the family. A preliminary list of families was prepared by the vicars of the Archdiocese of Detroit in collaboration with parish priests. These families were shared with Archbishop Vigneron for his consideration and approval.

Q: How are *Families of Parishes* different than mergers and clusters?

A: Unlike mergers and clusters, in a family each parish maintains its individual identity and integrity, while allowing all priests within the family to share their ministry to the faithful of several parishes.

Q: How will each family be structured and who will lead the family?

A: The family as a governance model replaces the former "vicariate" structure which included too many parishes to allow collaboration between priests. Two leadership models are possibilities for a family and will be decided upon between the pastors of all parishes within the family: A "one pastor" model which allows a single priest to serve as pastor with the help of other priests; or, a "in solidum" model, in which multiple pastors work together as a team with a single pastor acting as the moderator of the group. When established, each family has the flexibility to switch between leadership models based on what is most realistic and practical for the family.

Q: How will priests be impacted by *Families of Parishes*?

A: This new model fosters a collaborative "team approach" to priests' ministries and allows them to extend their ministry to more Catholics within the family. Priests will now have the opportunity to share their unique charisms - talents and experiences - with all parishioners within the family.

Q: How will parishioners be impacted by *Families of Parishes*?

A: In addition to becoming part of a larger faith community (meeting more Catholics!), parishioners will be presented with greater opportunities to encounter Christ and deepen their relationships with Him through increased access to the Sacraments, Christian service and faith formation programs.

Q: How will moving to *Families of Parishes* impact parish finances?

A: Each parish in the family will remain unique and financially distinct entities. They will each be responsible for the financial stewardship of their individual parish.

We understand you may have more questions about how *Families of Parishes* will impact Divine Child. For more information, visit www.familiesofparishes.org.



LEARN MORE

familiesofparishes.org