

Holy Cross/St. Christine Merger News

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."
Abraham Lincoln

The Staffs and Parish Councils from Holy Cross and St. Christine parishes have met to begin the merger process of the two parishes

One of the first issues to come up as both of these groups met was communication to the parishioners. Keeping parishioners informed is a very important part of this process and every effort will be made to insure that parishioners are kept up to date on whatever is happening at both parishes. Periodically, a newsletter will be published to keep everyone updated on the process as well as to provide opportunities for involvement. The same newsletter will be distributed at both parishes so the news coming from the merger process will be accurate and consistent.

The merging of the parishes will be an ongoing process and it is hoped that parishioners from both parishes will take advantage of the various opportunities that will be available for participating in the process, for celebrating at each individual parish and for coming together to get to know each other at combined social and worship events.

Please keep the parishioners and staffs from both parishes in your prayers as we work to create a parish that will serve the needs of both parishioners and the larger community.

Merger Timeline

We have recently received confirmation from Bishop Lennon of the following dates and times:

St. Christine Closing Mass
Saturday, February 13, 2010, 4:00 p.m.

Holy Cross Closing Mass
Sunday, February 14, 2010, 11:30 a.m.

Opening Mass for New Parish
Sunday, February 21, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

Now that we have these confirmed dates, the Merger Transition Team (MTT), previously the Cluster Planning Teams, will put a timeline in place at their next meeting on July 6th.

The MTT will lead this process, however, many others will be involved from parish staffs, parish councils to subcommittees which have been created to complete many of the necessary tasks.

Naming of a Pastor



Fr. McNulty shared the process that would be used to name a pastor in the new parish.

Both parishes will gather their current statistical information and send their individual statistics to the Clergy Personnel Board. The Board will make this information available to priests within the Diocese. Any priest who has completed one successful assignment may apply for the position.

A Town Hall meeting will be held asking parishioners what they believe is needed in a new pastor.

Hopefully a new pastor will be named prior to the date of the establishment of the new parish. He will work with the current Pastor/Administrator in choosing a staff and preparing for the transition.



Subcommittees



The Diocesan Consolidation Manual suggests that parishes create several subcommittees to assist with the work during the merging process.

Some of the work of these committees will be in their own parish and other work will be done with both parishes. Subcommittees will have a co-chair from each parish.

These committees will begin meeting in June. By July 1st, each committee is to have met, determined goals and be ready to submit them to the MTT which will meet on July 6th.

Parish Staffs and Parish Councils agreed to create the following subcommittees:

- Education & Faith Formation
- Finances and Facilities
- Liturgy and Worship
- Naming
- Parish History
- Parish Ministries & Outreach
- Social Activities & Social Life
- Welcoming

Some of the subcommittees will be looking at what is being done in the individual parishes currently and also consider the future needs of the new parish.

The **Naming Subcommittee** is assigned to *design a process* for parishioners to suggest names and the reasons for

their suggestion. The final decision will be the Bishop's but it is our duty to submit several options.

The **Parish History Subcommittee** will gather information to help parishes celebrate their history. Holy Cross celebrates their 85th Anniversary this year and St. Christine celebrates their 84th Anniversary. It is important for our parishioners to take time to celebrate the traditions and history of each of these parish communities. For many, these parishes have been a significant part of their lives and families for decades. Information regarding these celebrations will be published soon.

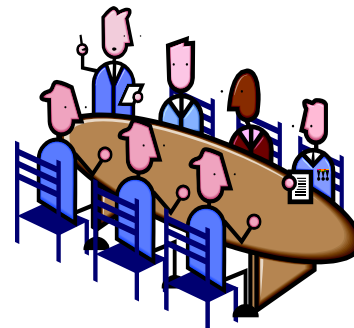
It will be the task of the **Welcoming Subcommittee** to create ways to make everyone feel welcome in the new parish. As we continue in this process, we hope to have opportunities to come together monthly.

Some of these subcommittees have already set times and dates for their first meetings. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please contact:

Sr. Kathleen Flannery at Holy Cross at 216-486-0850

or

Dana Heil at St. Christine Church at 216-261-1410



Merger Transition Teams

Holy Cross Church

Fr. John McNulty
Sr. Kathleen Flannery
Danni Hubbard
Chuck DePenti
John Kendel
Sylvia Profenna

St. Christine Church

Fr. Edward Smith
Dana Heil
Jennifer Adams
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