

St. John Parishioners,

I wanted to write to you and explain what I know so far about the Beacons of Light Pastoral Planning for the Archdiocese and our parish. This program has been in the making for some time in the Archdiocese. It came about primarily as a response to the shortage of priests that we are experiencing and continue to experience. Information has been gathered by an outside company that will guide how our Archdiocese will look over the next few years and into the future.

St. John the Evangelist Parish as we know it today is going to look different by this time next year. Instead of individual parishes, we will have "parish families" within the Archdiocese. A parish family will consist of one to five parishes joined together with one Pastor and at least one Parochial Vicar. In some cases, there may be an additional Parochial Vicar assigned to a family. It looks like there might be around sixty families in the whole Archdiocese.

What does that mean for St. John Parish? We will likely be paired with a few parishes come July 2022. Which parishes will join us to make up our parish family? This has not yet been revealed. The priests of the Archdiocese will meet on September 29 this year to view the initial plan of family groupings. At this meeting, we will be able to make comments and suggestions about the process. Then in October, the laity (staff and parishioners) will have the opportunity to go online and review the material. Come November, the families will be given out and the transition begins. In the first quarter of 2022, we will find out who the Pastors and Parochial Vicar(s) of each of the parish families will be. I hope to continue to serve you as Pastor, but final decisions have not been made.

I encourage you to sign up for the Beacons of Light email updates. Their website can be found in the bulletin. Please consider sharing your thoughts with the when the laity has a chance to speak in October. These changes will impact each of us and our daily Parish life as we currently know it, so it is important that all voices are heard during this process.

This Parish Family will take five years to fully develop. While everything will not be put into action immediately, the framework of the family will begin in July 2022. As I receive information, I will be sure to share it with you. Pray with me for all parishes of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati as we move forward with Parish Family life.

May God's peace be among you!

*Fr. Don*

