



1 June 2020

Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church

*Dear Parishioners,*

In early March there was an article regarding the work of our Transition Team and their recommendations to merge the three parishes and create a new parish at the St. Sebastian site. This recommendation was based on meetings in October, November, December 2019, and additional meetings in January, February and March 2020, in which the Transition Team members reviewed information regarding the Archdiocesan Priest statistics, Mass counts, registered households, sacramental trends, building condition reports, parish finances for all three parishes and how best to proceed combining the ministries of all three parishes and to provide for the Catholic faithful in the area in the future. We had planned on conducting a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, March 22, 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from meeting. I want to share the information with you, so you are aware of what information the Transition Team reviewed in making their recommendation.

### **Archdiocesan Priest Statistics**

There are currently 276 Diocesan and Religious Orders Priests serving the 218 Parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The average age is 57.3 with 127 of the Priests 60 years and older.

### **Registered Households 2010-2019**

The three parishes have experienced a 42% decrease over this period

### **Religious Education**

The three parishes have experienced a 46% decrease over this period

### **Baptisms**

The three parishes have experienced an 86% decrease over this period

### **First Communions**

The three parishes have experienced an 88% decrease over this period

At each parish, an independent building audit was conducted and looked at roofing systems, heating and cooling systems, parking lots and exterior masonry/walls. The repairs were estimated at:

St. John the Baptist	\$482,665
St. Albert the Great	\$578,945
St. Sebastian	\$805,796

*Please note*, the repairs at each building are not all critical and could be accomplished over the next 3 – 5 years.


Moving forward it is important to understand the financial condition of our parishes. Being good stewards over the years has provided us with a great opportunity to succeed moving forward. In combining our resources and the on-going lease at the St. Albert the Great site with Wayne County Metro Head Start, and the possibility of a long-term lease of purchase of the property we can be financially sound for the future and provide the needed ministries.

On Thursday, May 28, 2020 the consultative bodies of each parish met and there was unanimous consensus to proceed with the merger and request Archbishop Vigneron to present our request at the Presbyteral Council meeting on June 15, 2020. If approved I have asked for the merger date to be effective August 1, 2020 and each parish will have a final celebration at their parish and celebrate their unique history.

Please continue to pray for a spirit of peace and unity as we move forward and trust in the Holy Spirit as we come together as one.

As soon as I have additional information, I will share it with you in a timely matter.

Sincerely Yours in the Lord,

  
Very Rev Canon Walter J. Ptak  
Pastor