

St. Mary's/St. Joseph's Listening Session
St. Mary's Church
12/6/17 6:30pm

Over 60 in attendance

Comments from St. Joseph's Parishioners:

- 1). St. Joseph's is not eager to merge with St. Mary's. St. Joseph's can carry their own financial situation. We can look at ways to lower expenses and find ways to increase revenue. I want to circulate a petition opposing the financial merger with St. Mary's.
- 2). We need to look into why it is costing \$16,000 a year to maintain the Bombay Cemetery which has only six and a half acres to mow. That's a lot of gas!
- 3). There is no parishioner from St. Joseph's on the Finance Council.
A paid employee of the church should not be on the planning committee.
We need better representation on the Parish Council; members who are active and participating in the life of our church.
Parishioners would like to receive the minutes of the Parish Council meetings.
- 4). We have no presence of a priest or deacon residing in our parish. We feel left out.
- 5). We could allow the Tribe or the Town to take over the Bombay Cemetery.
- 6). Since we have no priest or deacon living in the parish some members have died without being afforded the opportunity of a pastoral visit.

Comments from St. Mary's Parishioners:

- 1). We have a strong vibrant, faith community here at St. Mary's. Possibly the strongest in the Diocese. We have a very good religious education program. We have many young families with children who are involved as greeters, ushers, and altar servers. They also bring up the gifts and pick up the collection.
- 2). We have been saddled with the burden of paying St. Patrick's insurance and assessments for the past four years. It would be better to merge at the end of the five year period when we no longer have St. Patrick's debt.
- 3). I was baptized in this parish and I want to be buried in this parish. I want the church to stay open even if I have to work at more dinners and fundraisers. Even if we have to have a foreign priest who has difficulty speaking the English, I would still want the parish to stay open so that I could attend here.
- 4). Could we invite the parishioners from Chateaugay and Burke to St. Mary's to participate in one of our masses? We don't know anything about them and they don't know anything about us.
- 5). What can we do to help make it easier for Father Tom and Deacon Brian?
- 6). Is there a possibility of rotating masses, not necessarily on the weekend but more during the week?
- 7). Could we have one bulletin for all six parishes? We don't know what is going on with Chateaugay and Burke and they don't know what is going on with us.
- 8). Could we have an in-pew survey that would give the people a chance to give their input referring to mass times?
- 9). We are looking into having all the commissioned lay ministers take a more active role in the specific area of parish life that they were commissioned for.
We are looking into having a communion service on Saturday mornings of each week.
- 10). We should encourage more people to attend the Holy Hour on the first Wednesday of the month to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
- 11). We have more young families coming to mass at St. Mary's than I have seen in any other Church where I have attended mass.