

Family of Parishes
Report from the Transition Committee

Update # 1: June 16, 2019.

As you know, a committee has been chosen to guide the process of our three parishes – St. Joseph’s, Immaculate Conception, and Holy Name of Mary – into one Family of Parishes. The Family of Parishes Transition Committee consists of Marianne Braca, Wally Ebner, Jim Gaylor, Amanda Vanderploeg, Marc Bauer-Maison, Shirley Ann Beecroft, Tom Donati, Scott McLaughlin, and Dan Parr (chairperson). Father Bester and Father Butler are also on this committee, and Father Petraszko will join when he arrives with us. The Family of Parishes is a model adopted by the Diocese of London, designed to enable us to face our challenges, but more importantly, to enable us to be mission-oriented parishes, forming disciples of Jesus. While the Families of Parishes concept is diocese-wide and diocese-mandated, there is great opportunity and need for local decisions and local variation.

The committee has adopted three broad goals:

1. To develop a trusting, mutually-respectful, and effective working relationship;
2. To develop a new pastoral council;
3. To further develop a mission-oriented church that forms disciples of Jesus.

Some items the committee’s consideration include: new pastoral council, common bulletin, staffing, mass times, ministry to nursing homes, ministry to schools, sacramental preparation, finances, R.C.I.A., Joint publications, youth Ministry, faith formation liturgical ministry, music ministry, combined phone system, serving the poor, **SHARED MISSION.**

As well, the committee is guided by the five documents produced by the diocese and distributed in parishes in 2018. These documents are designed to keep committees and parishioners focused on our mission as Catholics as we transition through this phase of change and renewal. They may be found at <https://dol.ca/info-series-handouts-2018>.

Two of the quotes from these documents, which the committee reflected on and found meaningful are:

I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation. The renewal of the structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light (Pope Francis).

To be missionary-oriented means we must be rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, renewed by the Holy Spirit, refreshed by prayer, and radiating joy as we serve others. This is our hope for all our parishes and our vision for the Families of Parishes (Diocese of London, Family of Parishes Information Series, Part 1 of 5).

The committee has just begun its work together. Over the next several months, as the committee deliberates carefully and prayerfully on the above topics, you will receive updates in the bulletin.