



March 28, 2009

PARISH MERGER

WHAT'S NEXT?

This weekend we ask everyone to complete the selection forms found in the pew for the potential Mass Schedule for our new parish. Based on present schedules the anticipated number of parishioners we will have and considering the need to have the church near 3/4 full on weekends as well as the availability of priests, our Core team offers the selection found on the forms to be collected this weekend.

Another concern which will need to address shortly will be the naming of our new parish. It is most important for everyone to understand that since we are establishing the merger of two parishes into a new faith-community, we are looking at a new entity, a new community with new life which should therefore have a new name.

The Congregation for Worship in Rome gives instructions that where as the title of an individual church building, once established in the dedication of a church, cannot be changed, yet "if several parishes are joined together so that a new parish is established, it is permitted, for pastoral reasons, to establish a new name differing from the title of the parish church." (Canon 1218 # 12). It is the PEOPLE who make the parish. So that parish "A" may worship in church "B" but the "parish" once again is "A".

The bishop will be accepting recommendations for our new parish's name and more information will be coming as to the process for doing this. For now, you may have some thoughts which we will welcome in the Question Box in the back of both churches. The name should be one title, unless they are saints listed in the Church's Official Calendar (as "Sts. Peter and Paul"). Consider names of the Blessed Trinity, Our Lord Jesus Christ invoked according to a mystery of his life, a title already accepted in the liturgy; the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin Mary, any of her title, the angels, or a saint inscribed in the Roman Martyrology.