

Ss. Isidore and Maria Torribia Parish Town Hall Meeting

April 7, 2019

Agenda

- Welcome and opening prayer: Fr. Pat
- Responding to questions you submitted in March
 - Staffing/Finances
 - Other parishes in the Diocese of Rochester and the Diocese as a whole
 - Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA)
 - Weekend Mass schedule
 - Other
- Time for additional questions, comments, and suggestions (one hour): facilitated by Dcn. Doug
- Closing Prayer: All

Opening Prayer (Fr. Pat)



Staffing/Finances

Parish Staffing

Priest		Full Time	35	
Deacon		UNPAID		All time spent is Voluntary.
Faith Formation - 3 People		Part Time	35	Total for 3 People
Business Manager		Full Time	21	Shared Service - 40% of Expenses paid by St. John Vianney
Finance Director		Part Time	5	Shared Service w/ 5 Other Parishes and 1 School. 86% of Expenses paid by other Parishes.
Secretary		Part Time	16	
Maintenance		Part Time	18	
Cleaning - 2 People		Part Time	9.5	Total for both employees

Parish Staffing

- Do we need a full time Finance Director or Deacon?
- Can any of the paid positions be done by volunteers?
- Is it possible to cut back hours for paid personnel?

Finances

- What are the expenses in detail? What is the income in detail?
- What is the large increase in Purchase Services?
- Has there been mismanagement of funds or embezzlement?
- There is over \$82,000 in patrimony accounts—what can this be used for?

Finances

- If the parish (or a church) closes, what happens to the “trust funds”?
- How did it happen that this situation went on so long without being addressed?
- If the All Saints Parish parishioners who attended our church did not register at Ss. Isidore and Maria Torribia, how does their loss now impact our finances?

Other parishes in the Diocese of Rochester and the Diocese as a Whole



Are there any other parishes in our diocese with 450 families and 3 churches?

- **Mary Mother of Mercy** (Ovid, Interlaken, Trumansburg) – 266 households, 3 churches, driving distances between churches: 10-22 miles
- **Our Lady of the Snow** (Cato, Weedsport, Port Byron) – 301 households, 3 churches, driving distances: 6-19 miles
- **Blessed Trinity** (Wolcott, Red Creek, Fair Haven) – 171 households, 3 churches (only two have weekend Masses)
- **St. Joseph the Worker** (Clyde, Savannah, Lyons) – 466 households, 3 churches

Priests

- What would it take to get another priest to help this parish and Bath parish [St. John Vianney]?
- Are there retiring priests interested in assisting the rural parishes?
- Is it possible to have a visiting priest from the Elmira monastery [Mt. Savior] come to say Mass here? If they could rotate and help Fr. Pat, we could get more people back.

Other

- Are there funds available to help our Parish with a big miles apart structure?
- Can or will the Diocese show us mercy and help in this financial crisis?
- What happens if a parish runs out of money? Has that ever happened to a parish in our Diocese or others?



Catholic Ministries Appeal

Basic Information

- The overall goal is based on the budgeting processing and needs of the Diocese.
- For 2018-19 it is budgeted to cover 57% of the diocesan budget and only covers:
 - Diocesan services to parishes and institutions
 - Supporting priests, deacons, pastoral leaders and vocations
 - Educating our young in the Catholic faith
 - Serving people in need through Catholic Charities (not 100%)
 - Ministries of our Pope and Bishop
 - Diocesan operations

Basic Information

- The CMA goal for each parish is based on 4 factors: households, collections, attendance and median income of those living in the area

How is some money returned to us? Give specific examples.

- Directly: 50% of any overage when the CMA goal is surpassed

How is some money returned to us—specific examples

- Indirectly: ministries, programs and services provided to each parish and funded by CMA dollars:
 - Information technology support
 - Pastoral planning support
 - Finance/audit services, legal services
 - Human Resource services for parish staff—payroll services, pension/retirement services, insurance processing

Process determining goal and appeals

- Overall CMA goal for the coming year is set
- Over summer: diocesan IT director reaches out to each pastor to review numbers associated with households, collections, attendance and median income—pastors can let him know if numbers look “off” or if something may have changed
- August: parish goals set
- Appeals process. A limited amount is budgeted to reduce CMA goals for parishes that are facing unforeseen catastrophe (e.g. flooding, fire) or significant changes in demographics suddenly that may not be captured by the demographics used in calculating the parish CMA goal

Process determining goal and appeals

- CMA Advisory Committee (composed of Pastors throughout the Diocese) reviews each request and makes decisions regarding granting reductions
- September: the CMA campaign begins

Will the Diocese reduce our CMA goal? Can they help?

- It is not possible to reduce a parish's goal at this point in this year's campaign as there are no funds available to make this reduction
- CMA office (one person) is working with Fr. Pat, Suzanne and Peter to ensure a full and accurate list of parish parishioners and to support additional ways to assist the parish during the final weeks of this year's CMA campaign--e.g. special letter to parishioners who have not yet given

Weekend Mass Schedule/Other
Questions You Submitted

Is it possible to have a Sunday Mass at each of the 3 churches in our parish?

- Principle in Canon Law and Liturgical Law: all in a parish gather for a single celebration of the Eucharist—once a day
- Second principle provides a relaxation of the first based on need—permission has been readily given for two Masses in a single day
- Permission for 3 under certain conditions—the permission the bishop gives is to the priest to celebrate, not to the parish to schedule
- **Necessity is not the same as convenience**

Other questions about the Mass schedule

- Could a visiting priest or a missionary priest be invited to say a Mass once or twice a month during the summer months?
- Does the increasing length of the weekly Mass at St. Joseph's cause a decrease in attendance? The increase in time is partly due to the music ministry that sings all parts of the Mass as well as hymns.

Other questions you submitted

- Is one site going to be closed? Will a church need to be closed?
- If we start closing a parish or won't even be allowed to pick our Mass schedule and people go elsewhere, how long will any of the parishes be open?
- Why did you wait so long to bring this to the attention of the parish?
- Is the Catholic Church in its current mode still viable? (not that this is up to this committee)



Time for additional questions,
comments and suggestions



Closing Prayer (All)

Good and gracious God,
we know that we face difficult challenges.

Help us work together prayerfully,
mindful of all the parishioners of our parish.

Give us the grace to be good listeners,
empathetic and compassionate,
and grant us your wisdom.

Lord, help us maintain a positive and encouraging attitude as
we work together.

May Your Spirit guide our hearts and minds,
fully realizing that You are an ever-faithful God.

May our work give You glory,
for You are Lord forever and ever.

Amen.

