

## *Grieving Tree Collated Responses*

When we haven't given voice to something, we remain stuck, we remain where we are and cannot move forward. Once we've given voice, we can work with it. In an effort for all voices to be heard, all were encouraged to think of those things that are stumbling blocks to reach acceptance of the unification and to express those thoughts on the grieving tree. The "Grieving Tree" responses from all four weekend Masses are categorized and listed below.

### **Mass or Mass times**

- To have a later Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's/no Masses at Bascom weekly.
- Taking our 5:30 Mass at Bascom change it to 4:30 to 5:30 pm. We're not taking into consideration people not able to attend in the dark in the winter. Sad that my home church still has Masses and others do not.
- I do not like early morning Mass.
- I understand why this needs to be done. I just wish St. Pat's could still have a 10 am Sunday Mass. However, this will not shake my faith. I will still love my church and pray that people come back to church.
- I believe more people will attend St. Pat's at a 9 am Mass, not 8 am.
- Driving to New Riegel for the Mass time I choose, but I will to move forward

### **Chapels/Use of Buildings/Parish Configurations**

- Chapels not being used.
- Sadness regarding the closing of chapels
- My biggest concern is that the churches could be demolished. PLEASE don't let this happen!
- Wishing we could consider using the other chapels (Frenchtown, Alvada, and Liberty) for weddings and funerals
- Add items from chapels to All Saints, statues and sacramentals
- Statues removed from church
- Treatment of chapels is sinful
- That Frenchtown can't be used for weddings and maybe funerals in the future
- That Frenchtown can't have any Masses
- To know that the chapels are kept in some way, as a sentimental old family bible would be kept and respected
- Sadness of beautiful churches not being used.
- The new name for the chapels sounds terrible.
- I do not want to see St. Nicholas torn down
- The disgraced physical state of the convent site. It is our duty to honor the site.
- St. Andrew's is so much more of a true family church than St. Patrick's. St. Patrick's church is also smaller. St. Patrick's should be closed, not St. Andrew's, and I belong to St. Patrick's.
- There should be weddings at the chapels.
- St. Nicholas should have been with Carey.
- Why did the Bascom parishes join New Riegel? It seems most of them went elsewhere and maybe things would've been different for the New Riegel parishes?
- Could we use the St. Nicholas Chapel as a place to say the Tridentine Rite Mass? Spoken in English is fine.
- Fear the two main church buildings will be torn down to rebuild, when the two buildings could last another 100 years. Let's be stewards (nothing else, good plan).
- Why are we keeping all the churches open, paying ins., upkeep, if we're trying to cut costs? I know it is hard to let go.
- What will happen to the other churches as the mother church of Carey, will Frenchtown go back to Carey?
- What will happen with the churches we will no longer use—can they still have some useful purpose and not be destroyed?
- I empathize so strongly with those losing their "home" parish church.
- Keeping St. Andrew's running and closing other churches was never given serious consideration.

### **Identity**

- I'm sad that the church that I've been attending for 65 years will be reduced to a mission church, but I also know that it doesn't matter where we worship, but that we gather together! I will miss St. Pat's! - Marge Schalk
- Not considering feelings of the members of the former parish chapels and doing this to include and bring them back.
- I am losing my identity
- Losing what my father and grandparents and Andrew Brickner, who walked to the Diocese of Cincinnati to ask to have a Catholic Church built here. The Bishop told him since he made the sacrifice to have a church, he would name it after him, St. Andrew. A very big part of the Diocese of Toledo's history.
- Our family of community will be broken because we won't see these people every week, like we do now. A sense of community that we have grown up with our relationship with God on Sundays.
- Only Church I have been a member of.
- I started a life and family here.
- I was baptized, First Communion, confirmed, married, and baptized my son here. There are memories.

### **Involvement**

- Declining church attendance.
- The lack of youth involvement in the church.

- Times for new Masses are setting St. Pat's up to show decline and then be forced to close
- The flock will scatter wide and far.
- Worried about people falling away.

#### **Change**

- Change/new people.
- Change is hard.
- I am angry.
- SS Patrick & Andrew never came together as SS Patrick & Andrew. We closed ourselves.
- Will this side of 224 really be united with All Saints, New Riegel and accepted?
- Lack of openness we are facing to the change that will come.
- Lack of self-control or having the control to change this. Be able to accept the change no matter how hard it may be—for us all.
- Unhappy people about the changes

#### **Priest related**

- We need more priests.
- Wish there would have been more open-mindedness of the fact that there were 5 parishes and only one priest. We are very lucky to have Fr. Tim!
- Lack of priests.
- I would like to see women become priests (not so much the androids :)
- I feel bad that we don't have sufficient pastors to meet everyone's needs, but thank God for Fr. Tim.

#### **Prayers for Parishes/Moving Forward**

- We pray for all of All Saints Parish. We are visitors and love to come here.
- Prayers that people can accept what is happening. Remember to love one another.
- Let's move ahead for our children and their children.
- I am happy the ways things are. I know it has to be done. God bless all who spent so much time!
- I have no complaints. Instead, I give you a hug! Life throws many changes, we just need to accept and move on. God bless us all!
- We will miss our small country church. But we totally understand the reality of what needs to be done.

#### **Feeling Left Out or Discounted**

- I feel that women are still not equal to men in our church throughout the world.
- Feeling like we are second class, that we don't count.
- I find that our church members are not too friendly. While shopping, I find people that are readers and singers will not speak to me. Our church members I feel need to accept all of us. I want to feel that I am loved by my church. I feel that Father has been wonderful. I love his sermons and his sense of humor.

#### **Unification**

- Too many homilies focused on the unification. Actual consideration of female priests (a heresy!). Families contracepting our priests away.
- I wish others could see
- the good in this unification. I am very excited about these changes and I think it should bring us closer. I have no anger toward this.
- I am thankful for "our" ONE parish!
- That we all can't see the goodness that can come as we unite into one, just like we've been from the beginning.
- I am fine with this unification, family don't feel welcome at New Riegel.
- I think we're being brainwashed. We've heard enough about One Faith, etc.

#### **Questions and Comments**

- Question: Are we going to hand out bulletins before Mass at All Saints?
- My thoughts of what I could have done different.
- I can't hear you!
- Politics need to be left out of church.
- I am more concerned with why some don't put God first and come to church, filling the church, and how many priests and nuns did we abort?
- Don't close churches and then complain that attendance and donations are down. Toledo Diocese is acting in their best interest, not ours.
- Shut up and keep telling me I should be happy my church is closing.
- Spent three months in the hospital, not one word from my church, but neighboring church sent three cards.
- I feel that we are spending money on things like books, colored bulletins, mailings, studies that are making our parishes need more money.
- It won't make any difference.