



Mt. Hope Catholic Community

John of God / St. Francis of Assisi / St. Dominic

June 4, 2019

My dear friends,

In a few short weeks all of us together will become pioneers of sorts as we embark on a new way of seeing ourselves as Catholics in Community. Last night, Monday the 3rd of June, I had the pleasure of meeting with the planning committees of our three parishes. The sub-committees of the planning groups were able to share with me their work to date and some hopes and questions as we go forward. Much of what we will be doing from this point on might well be called "trial and error". All of this is new for you and me both. Because the time is coming so quickly, one of the most pressing needs has been to develop a Mass schedule for our three worship spaces that make Mass available for as many people as possible with as many choices as possible. Some of you may be disappointed if your particular Mass at your worship space has been suspended or changed. Realize that "change of schedule" affects every one of our parishes and not just yours. In this day and age however where just about everyone has access to transportation, we have created a schedule with times that vary to give you more choices and to make it possible for two priests to get from place to place. Please understand that this schedule will be in place for at least one year. In a year from now if we need to make adjustments that are realistic and practical, then it shall be so.

To identify ourselves as a new entity, I suggested that we might be called the Mt. Hope Catholic Community. It was enthusiastically received. I think it identifies us nicely since our parishes occupy the northwestern shore of Mt. Hope Bay from the mouth of the Taunton River to the Warren line in Ocean Grove. Hope likewise is one of the three things that endure: Faith, Hope and Love. Our "hope", please God, is that we find it easy and natural to look at our Catholic neighbors, not as "them", but as "brothers and sisters". Rather than seeing a neighboring parish as foreign territory, hopefully we see it as the home of extended family. As I put it last night, it might not be the house that you sleep in, but it's your uncles house so it's still family and you should still feel welcome and a sense of belonging. We are family. We are community. We're three brothers: John, Francis and Dominic - and in Jesus' day, first cousins were considered brothers and sisters.

All of us, and me in particular as the incoming pastor owe a great deal of gratitude to those of our number who have been involved in the reconfiguration process to date. These men and women, our bothers and sisters, have been extraordinary in

their openness and courage, their generosity of time and talent, and the sharing of their love of the Church and of our three parishes. I am so proud to have been called to work, minister and pray with disciples like these, and so extraordinarily grateful that they represent the very best of who we are as three beautiful and vibrant parishes families. I very much look forward to the ongoing work of these important planning committees, and please know that they, and I, will continue to seek your helpful advice and counsel. Yes! Going forward may see bumps in the road. Yes! There may be some disappointments. But yes! We, the Mt. Hope Catholic Community ARE men, women, boy and girls who are anchored in Hope! Hope in the love of God! Hope in the Spirit who will guide us! Hope that our Eucharistic Lord will continue to nourish and strengthen us to be the best possible disciples who hold this treasure of faith as a gift to be shared!

Your brother in Christ,

F. Hamel

Weekend Masses for the Mt. Hope Catholic Community

St. Dominic	Sat. 4pm / Sun. 7am
St. Francis of Assisi	Sun. 9:30am & 11am
St. John of God	Sat. 5:30pm / Sun. 8:30am [®] & 5:30pm

Weekday Masses for the Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Monday	7am - St. Dominic 7am - St. Francis of Assisi
Tuesday	7am - St. John of God 6pm Novena/6:30pm Mass - St. John of God
Wednesday	6:30pm - St. Francis of Assisi
Thursday	7am - St. John of God 6:30pm - St. Dominic
Friday	7am - St. Francis of Assisi