



St. Vincent Pallotti Parish

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A note about the Cluster Plan.

1. A background history

In 2015 the Archdiocese asked the parishes of St. Jude, St. Vincent Pallotti and St. Therese to come up with their Cluster plan Organization options. Following this in July of 2015, the Pastors of St. Jude and St. Vincent Pallotti and the Parish Director of St. Therese met to begin the process. Since then, meetings have been held in which the Pastors, Parish Director, Trustees, and Parish Pastoral Council Chairs met to get to know each other and to discuss and respond to the Planning document from the Archdiocese. The name “The Bluemound Group of Parishes” for this cluster was the consensus title for this group of parishes.

With regard to the Pastoral leadership, given the uniqueness of these parishes and their configurations, the expressed consensus was that each of these parishes would have a local Parish leader for the foreseeable future. As long as the Pallottine Order is willing to assign a Pastor to St. Vincent Pallotti Parish, the group affirmed that leadership. And as long as an Archdiocesan priest can be assigned to St. Jude as Pastor, the group affirmed that leadership as well. The group also affirmed the continuation of the ministry of a Parish Director at St. Therese Parish. The group also opted for the possibility of some shared staff, some Joint and separate Meetings of Pastoral Councils and Finance councils as well as some shared Committees. The group also affirmed its plan to continue meeting on a leadership level to build relationships and to seek areas of collaboration and partnership. This proposal was presented to the Archdiocese Office for Planning and councils for review on March 2, 2016.

In response to this proposal the “Bluemound group of Parishes” received the following response from the Archbishop: I quote from the Archbishop’s letter dated, April 19, 2016.

“I have reviewed the preliminary cluster plan which you submitted for my review. The three parishes in the vicinity of Bluemound Road are currently served by a diocesan priest, a Pallottine priest, and a parish director. It seems to me that you have done a good job of capturing the complexities of this present reality in the plan. However, at some point in the future, St. Jude and St. Therese will share one pastor. As long as the Pallottine Fathers are able to provide a pastor for St. Vincent Pallotti, they will likely continue under his leadership but share in certain ministries and programs with the other parishes....”. The Archbishop further encouraged us saying, “...to continue the dialogue with staff and councils in order to build relationships and trust which is critical to the collaborative process”. This was supposed to be the 20/20 plan for our cluster.

Although no further concrete steps were taken for some time, discussions did continue among the pastors of these parishes and with the archdiocese. As a result of these continuing discussions, the original idea of clustering was changed. Parish leaders talked about various challenges and possibilities. It was felt that given the large size of St. Jude’s parish it may not be practical for the present pastor to assume added responsibilities. Then the possibility of St. Therese collaborating with St. Vincent Pallotti came up because both the Parishes are now managed by the Pallottines and both the parishes have similar smaller sizes. It was also pointed out that it might be easy for St. Therese and St. Vincent Pallotti to work together given their common background. It was decided by all concerned to discuss this matter with the Archdiocese. This new plan was also shared in the

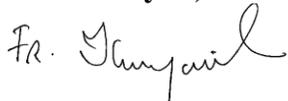
pastoral councils of both St. Vincent Pallotti and St. Therese and was found acceptable. After this the Pastors of St. Jude, St. Vincent Pallotti and St. Therese met with the Archdiocesan personnel and discussed this matter with them. The Archdiocesan representatives were appreciative and open to such a possibility. They encouraged us to work towards deepening the collaboration between St. Therese and St. Vincent Pallotti and at the same time continue our collaboration with St. Jude wherever possible. They also asked us to work with the Office of Planning and councils on this. In the month of November 2018 Mark Kemmeter, the archdiocesan representative once again met with both Pastoral councils and affirmed the fact that the original configuration of St. Jude and St. Therese working together under one pastor has changed and encouraged St. Therese and St. Vincent Pallotti to work more closely.

2. The present status and future plans.

As a result, both parishes are presently engaged in discussions at the parish level and inter parish level. In the month of March 2019, we had a common meeting of representatives from both the parishes along with the pastors and the archdiocesan authorities. Those at this meeting unanimously agreed that we should start our collaboration process at the level of activities organized by various commissions and by exchanging information that will enrich each other. Here at St. Vincent Pallotti we intend to begin our discussion in the pastoral council and in other important committees of our parish on the possible areas of collaboration with St. Therese. Once this is done we hope to come together with leaders of both parishes to pray, discern and plan the future course of action.

This information is presented so that you will be aware of this ongoing process and to solicit any suggestions you might have. Please feel free to contact me, the parish trustees or members of the Pastoral Council if you wish to discuss this.

God Bless you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. Tom Manjaly".

Fr. Tom Manjaly, SAC.