

On Tuesday November 21, Archbishop ListECKI and the Council of Priests for the Archdiocese addressed the topic of the West Allis -West Cluster Merger proposal. *(The consultation is a necessary part of the process of a Parish Merger.)* The proposal met with their approval and we have received the necessary permission from the Archbishop to begin. This is indeed good news for us all. Now the real task of planning how we will come together will formally begin.

What will happen as we begin the merger process...

Through this month and into January, a "Transition Team" will be formed to assist in the various tasks that need to happen. The team will consist of both Priests, the Trustees and some Pastoral Staff and Council members. We will also ask for volunteers for the various sub-committees that will take on certain tasks. As soon as the calendar of events and meetings is ready, we will share that with you. When the team is formed, the first two items on the agenda will be our properties and our membership. Remember that ALL THREE parishes will close, and a new parish will be created making the best use of our existing facilities. You will also be asked to join the new parish officially as one of the first steps in making this journey a success.

What will happen next...

As the Transition team begins their work, other projects will unfold building on these first steps.

- ❖ We will ask people to help us tell the story of our past years as three parish families. We will also seek your help to document the merger process and clearly communicate each step along the way with everyone.
- ❖ We will be planning celebrations to highlight the history and ministry of all three parishes, and to say farewell to what was as we create what is to be our future parish home.
- ❖ We will have a special time of celebration and prayer as we make recommendations to the Archbishop concerning a new name to identify us and the Mission of our new Parish family.
- ❖ There will also be sharing sessions to keep everyone informed and to ask for your input as more serious decisions need to be made.

There is much for us to do, and counting on your support and input, we will move forward in faith and hope. A new year will bring us a new lease on life. Let us continue to pray for each other and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we move ahead.

Along with this mailing, you will also find the flyer to create flower and decoration memorials for this Christmas season. Your generosity helps make each Church beautiful and the memorials make it even more special.

Fr. Thomas, Fr. Jeff and your Pastoral Staff and Councils wish you all of God's Blessings as we celebrate Christmas. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may we remember

that all that we do serves Him and His Holy Church. This is the true joy of Christmas, the joy that God's Good News brings into each of our lives.