

## Northwest Parishes of Racine

6400 Spring Street  
Racine, WI 53406

May 26, 2026

Dear Parish Family,

I hope you are enjoying these beautiful spring days after the long winter and cold weather we experienced. Our children and young people are excited about graduations and reaching another important milestone in their lives. Let us continue to pray for them and support them as they move forward in their studies and careers.

The purpose of this letter is to update you on where we are in our journey as one cluster of parishes. As you may recall, we began this journey in **June 2024**. Since then, we have had a transition team working diligently with Archdiocesan missionary planning to help make this process smooth and comfortable following the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

By **September 2024**, we introduced a **common parish bulletin** to make communication easier among all the parishes. Then, by **October 1, 2024**, we brought all staff members from each parish under one roof at **St. Paul's**. We were blessed to have enough space there to make our work together easier and more efficient. As planned, the proposed **Mass schedules for the Racine Deanery** were implemented on **December 1, 2024**.

Beginning in **January 2025**, we established **one Pastoral Council for all the parishes** in order to foster greater unity and collaboration. We also started the **Four Saints Festival**, which will continue in **June 2026**, to strengthen our sense of oneness through social gatherings and opportunities to work together. Other events such as **unified fish fries, Winter Fest, and various parish activities** have also helped build stronger community relationships among our parishes.

By **July 1, 2025**, we reorganized the **staff structure** and formed **one unified staff for all the parishes**. This has helped improve efficiency and strengthen financial stewardship. We were also able to bring **accounting and other financial areas into one coordinated system**.

At the same time, we have continued working to bring our **ministries and human concerns efforts under one umbrella of collaboration** — not eliminating good works but strengthening them together. These efforts have already shown positive results in many areas, although there is still room for growth and improvement. We have also continued **training liturgical ministers across all worship sites** so that everyone may serve together with greater unity and consistency.

With all these collaborative efforts, the leadership of our parishes has spent the past year praying, reflecting, and discerning how to make this journey even more effective and meaningful as our sense of unity continues to grow. As a result, the **Pastoral Council, Trustees, and Finance Councils** began discussing possible next steps.

At the **Pastoral Council meeting on February 10, 2026**, members reflected on the possibility of **merging the parishes**. These same thoughts were shared during the **joint Finance Council meeting held in March 2026**. Finally, at a combined meeting of the Pastoral Council and all Finance Councils on April 14, 2026, there was unanimous agreement to move forward with making a request to the Archbishop for him to consider merging the four parish communities.

Following that decision, the leadership asked me to write the Archbishop with this request. If the Archbishop agrees to proceed with a merger, we will begin a formal process that could take approximately one year. There will be many procedures and protocols to follow to ensure that everything is done properly and carefully.

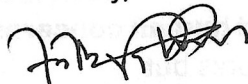
I understand that many of you may have questions and concerns. Please know that **nothing will happen without the approval of the Archbishop**. If permission is granted, we will hold **town hall meetings in the fall** to listen to your concerns and answer your questions.

It is also important to know that, even if a merger takes place, the current situation for parishioners will not immediately change. We will continue to have the **same worship locations and Mass schedules**. Instead of being known as the **Northwest Racine Parishes**, we would eventually become **one parish family with a new name**. Additional information and updates will be shared periodically if the Archbishop approves the request to move forward with the merger.

Please continue to pray that we may grow together as one strong community of faith for future generations. Let us also celebrate another successful **Four Saints Festival during Father's Day weekend** as we continue building unity and collaboration among our parishes.

May God bless you and your families abundantly.

Sincerely,



Fr. Thomas Vathappallil  
Pastor