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The three Catholic parishes in the city of Ashtabula enjoy a truly cooperative relationship. Many of our programs, policies, and Sacramental celebrations are done together, as is our support and dedication to Catholic education through Saints John and Paul School.

Parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio

The Mission of the "Transition Team" is to preserve the integrity, autonomy, and traditions of each of the three Catholic Parishes in Ashtabula, while working to ensure that the faithful of the entire Catholic Community is pastorally well-served.

The Transition Team met on Wednesday, August 8, and the first order of business was to establish the Mass schedule for the three parishes. We formulated two options for the weekend Masses (*see below*). Direct your comments to any or all of your respective parish representatives on the Transition Team.

Weekday Masses would be **8:00 AM Monday thru Friday**, rotating as follows:

<u>OLMC</u>	<u>St. Joseph</u>	<u>MOS</u>	
January	February	March	<i>[* indicates the month of each Parish's Feast Day]</i>
April	May *	June	
July *	August	September *	The 8:00 AM time was chosen because there are people
October	November	December	who attend daily Mass before going to work.

The Team then moved into the review and analysis of the survey responses. It quickly became apparent that the Team needed more than one session to process all the information provided in the 135 responses we received. The surveys were, by and large, constructive. Here are some brief responses to a few of the more pressing concerns.

- ▶ All three parishes will remain open, and autonomous! **There will be no sharing of finances**, only the continued sharing of programs, policies, and pastoral resources.
- ▶ Both Fr. Miller and Fr. Ruggieri will make a concerted effort to be present to the people of all three parishes as their pastors, not just as "weekend help."
- ▶ A communications system will be established at all three parishes to ensure the people's ability to contact a priest in a timely fashion in the event of a serious pastoral emergency (e.g., death, serious illness, etc.).

A more detailed response to all the survey results will follow our next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, August 22.

✂ *Cut here and return by August 22.*

<u>Option 1</u>	<u>Option 2</u>	<i>Please indicate your preference, and, if possible, explain the reason for your choice.</i>
Saturday	Saturday	
4:00 PM at St. Joseph	4:00 PM at St. Joseph	_____
5:00 PM at OLMC	5:00 PM at OLMC	_____
5:30 PM at MOS	5:30 PM at MOS	_____
Sunday	Sunday	_____
8:00 AM at MOS	8:30 AM at MOS	_____
9:30 AM at St. Joseph	10:00 AM at St. Joseph	_____
11:00 AM at OLMC	11:30 AM at OLMC	_____
Noon Spanish Mass at MOS	Noon Spanish Mass at MOS	_____

ASHTABULA TRI-PARISH TRANSITION TEAM

July 24, 2007 Meeting Minutes

The first meeting of the Ashtabula Tri-Parish Transition Team was held July 24, 2007, at the Mt. Carmel Rectory meeting room. Eileen Novotny was our facilitator, and Msgr. John Zuraw represented the Diocese of Youngstown.

Mrs. Novotny led our opening prayer and introductions of team members followed.

Our task for the evening was to answer three questions:

- ▶ What gifts do the present leadership staffs and parishioners of our three parishes have that support and contribute to this transition?
- ▶ How do we help our parishioners prepare for the transition and change?
- ▶ What are the most immediate and important issues/tasks that need to be considered in preparation for the changes needed?

The team divided into five groups and brain stormed the answers to the above questions. Each group presented their suggestions to the entire team and discussion ensued. Mrs. Novotny then asked each member to rank the three most important issues that were raised by the five groups.

In answer to the third question, the issues that the team identified as most important to address immediately are:

1. a process to ensure two-way communication between the team and the parishioners;
2. a schedule of daily, weekend, and holiday Masses for the community, and
3. a process to ensure that parishioners can easily contact a priest in the event of a pastoral emergency.

Addressing how finances will be handled was also mentioned several times on the issue charts.

Maureen Smith volunteered to lead a group to develop suggested Mass schedules.

Some discussion followed regarding the possibility of creating a flyer to distribute at all Masses the weekend of July 28/29. The flyer will communicate the outcome of the team's first meeting and ask parishioners to identify their hopes and concerns so that the team can begin to chart goals and strategies to meet the identified valid needs of the parishioners. Parishioners will be asked to return their comments the weekend of August 4/5. Fr. Joe offered to create the flyer and team members who would like to help create the flyer should meet at SJP High School at 3:00 July 25.

Discussion centered on the importance of all team members being on the same page and carrying the same message to the community.

Msgr. Zuraw shared statistics about our Diocesan parishes and priests with us. According to his figures, we currently have 115 parishes plus two missions in the Diocese which are served by 97 active priests. We have had one priest ordained this year in the Diocese and have lost two priests who have died and one priest who is ill and cannot currently serve. Median age of Diocesan priests is 64, and 25 priests are under the age of 50.

Our next meeting will be August 8, 2007, at 7:00 at the Mt. Carmel Rectory basement meeting room. Team members should come ready to build goals and strategies around the valid needs of the community that parishioners have identified as well as the needs that the team has identified.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Timonere