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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 are pastorally well-served.

ASHTABULA TRI-PARISH TRANSITION TEAM

October 24, 2007 - Minutes

Attendance: Paul Atzemis, Dwight Beebe, Sr. Dorothy Bondi, Linda Coblitz, Eloise Coxe, Sr. Laurie Divoky, Carla Hague, Valerie Harper, Deacon Don Johnson, Deacon Rich Johnson, Fr. Phil Miller, Deacon Alan Prasek, Fr. Joe Ruggieri, Maureen Smith, Maureen Tanner, Glenn Thomas, and Donna Timonere.

The Tri-Parish Transition Team Meeting began with a prayer, let by Sr. Laurie.

Discussion was held regarding a letter that was mailed to all team members. Fr. Miller advised us of the follow up conversation he had regarding the letter.

We discussed updates for the following:

- A. **Mass Schedules for weekends and holidays:** A representative from each parish gave a report of communications had with parishioners regarding the Mass schedules. On the whole, most people are being very positive and accepting of the new schedules so it was voted unanimously to maintain the current published Mass times. There is still a small group of people who are very unhappy with the entire transition process.
- B. **First Communion**
 1. St. Joseph Parish has 18 students receiving their First Communion. Even though they usually receive the Sacrament at a regular weekend Mass, this year it has been decided to have a separate Mass for the Sacrament at 2:00pm on Sunday, May 4, 2008. The time was changed because there is no physical space for the extra people who attend the First Communicants Mass.
 2. Mother of Sorrows Parish has 13 students and they will receive the Sacrament during the 10:00am Mass on Sunday, May 4, 2008.
 3. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish has 23 students receiving their First Communion at a 2:00pm Mass on Sunday on Sunday, May 4.
- C. **Hispanic Report** was given by Sr. Dorothy. She is continuing to make personal contact to people in the Hispanic community and has been successful in welcoming many Catholics back to the Mass, and most importantly, the Eucharist. She expressed what a young, dynamic, generous group she is working with. They are focusing on the liturgy and training people to participate in the ministries. They have purchased bilingual missals, which have been a positive addition to the Mass. There are generally 3 to 4 Baptisms per month for the Hispanic Community. Confirmation classes are beginning soon. Many Hispanic traditional celebrations are soon. All of these events seem to have brought their families closer together in their faith and prayer life.
- D. **Bulletin Covers** are being changed at each parish. OLMC was the first parish to change their bulletin cover, St. Joseph changed their bulletin cover the next weekend and soon Mother of Sorrows will change.
- E. **Other:**

The Deacons each stated that they have been very welcomed and received positive reactions to their role in the Mass and parish activities.

A question was asked about the "checks and balances" for Pete Olsen being Business Manager of each parish. Fr. Ruggieri and Fr. Miller explained that each parish's Finance Committee (and both priests) have policies in place to allow for "checks and balances."

A phone service has been established that will have a person automatically answer any calls to the parishes' phone numbers after hours. The service has begun and seems to be working well.

Next meeting will be held on November 28, 2007 from 6 – 8 pm in the OLMC School Conference Room. Members homework for this meeting is to read over the results of the original survey and bring forth any issues the Transition Team has not dealt with as yet.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Coblitz
Acting Secretary