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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.

**Transition Team Meeting
3/11/08 Minutes**

In Attendance: Paul Atzemis, Dwight Beebe, Linda Coblitz, Eloise Coxe, Carla Hague, Valerie Harper, Rich Johnson, Albina Larson, Alan Prasek, Fr. Joe Ruggieri, John Shoumlin, and Donna Timonere

1. The Listening Session at Mother of Sorrows Parish was well attended and many people spoke to the Bishop with a wide range of comments.
Mother of Sorrows' Sunday donations and number of envelopes received is still below "normal" but does seem to be increasing
Some Mother of Sorrows parishioners are still upset with some of the decisions that Fr. Bob made and with the Bishop's Development Campaign.
2. The Listening Session at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish was well attended but the very vocal people on the issue of the Tri-Parish Transition did not stay to speak to the Bishop or their fellow parishioners.
No person actually asked Bishop Murry why no appointment has officially been made at Mother of Sorrows Parish. Starting with the beginning of April, Priests will start announcing their retirements and moves to other Parishes, then the domino effect begins and continues until everyone is in their place.
3. Bishop Murry will lead Stations of the Cross at St. Joseph Parish on Wednesday, March 19, followed by a listening session. This will complete the visits by the Bishop regarding the Transition of the three parishes.
4. The Parish Census begins this weekend. Numbers attending church and receiving the Eucharist will be counted on Palm Sunday, Easter and for two weekends after Easter.
5. Outreach to people not attending Mass needs to be made and become a priority.
There was an article in the Catholic Exponent earlier this year regarding a parish that did this successfully. We should find out the details, so that we do not have to redesign this process.
Mailings do not seem to be effective. Going door to door not a good option – scary for both sides
6. Fr. Joe believes that the Transition Team needs to evolve into a Tri-Parish Council and that the members on this Council would be representatives to their own parish council meetings.
Frs. Miller and Ruggieri feel it would be impossible to attend three parish council meetings, three liturgy committee meetings, three finance committee meetings, St. John and Paul School meetings and other parish meetings needing attendance and representation.

7. Bishop Murry said that Mother of Sorrows can start their Parish/Pastoral Council even before a new pastor has officially been appointed.
The Parish/Pastoral Council will give MOS a voice again
MOS does have a set of bylaws which states number of members. Fr. Joe felt that 7 should be appointed by the two priests and 7 appointed through application/interview process
The new Parish/Pastoral Council needs to have a built in rotation for members, a way to discern who has the right reason for being on council, and willing to work as a team member.
The Council could work on the process of outreach to MOS parishioners not attending church, make recommendations and start new programs, but not run the Church
An application for Parish Council member will be in the Easter Sunday Bulletin
8. The call continues to be to keep each parish with their own traditions and councils but to be under the Tri-Parish Council to formulate policies and schedules.
All three parish /pastoral council members should attend a training/retreat once a year
9. The Easter Vigil will be held at Mother of Sorrows this year. Each parish will be represented during the liturgy.
All three Easter Candles will be there. A reception will be held in the hall after the Mass.
2 Baptisms & 10 Confirmations
10. Should we enclose the November minutes in the bulletins? Bishop's four statements?
Donna Timonere will write up the Bishop's four action steps for a bulletin flyer
11. Next meeting 4/23/08 at 6:30 at St. John & Paul Elementary conference room
(NOTE: This meeting has since been changed to Thursday, April 24, 2008.)