

As the Diocese of Columbus has announced, significant changes will take place this summer for the administration of our local parishes. This represents the culmination of years of consultative efforts in which we have all had the opportunity to participate. Our parish Transition Teams and staffs have been meeting together for many months in accord with our implementation guidelines. We are very grateful for their work.

Of course, the most impactful modifications affect times for Sunday Masses. Beginning July 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, the schedule for Lancaster area parishes will be as follows:

St. Mary Lancaster: 4:30pm Saturday and 8:00am and 10:00am Sunday

St. Mark Lancaster: 11:30am Sunday

St. Joseph Sugar Grove: 8:00am Sunday

St. Bernadette Lancaster: 4:00pm Saturday and 10:00am Sunday

St. Mary Bremen: no scheduled Masses

Daily Mass, Confession, and Adoration times will be publicized within each parish.

Father Eilerman will administrate St. Mark in addition to remaining at St. Mary and Father Tomson will administrate St. Joseph while remaining at St. Bernadette.

While adjustments like this prove challenging, we recognize that they are necessary to continue to serve the souls entrusted to our care as well as possible. We are all in agreement: we want the thriving and essential activities of our parishes to continue. Our Transition Teams will keep working to ensure that all our work will carry on well. At the same time, we recognize the need to allocate our fewer priests more efficiently to serve our entire diocese while combining our parishes' energies to encourage a vibrant spiritual life for our parishioners. More details will follow in the next weeks. This process is sensitive, takes time, and will require modifications as we go forward.

We remain profoundly grateful for the sacrifices of so many faithful people and the ministry of so many faithful priests over the long history of Catholicism in our area. In particular we recognize the longtime involvement of Father Gideon and Monsignor Walter. Our deacons have been steady sources of continuity. Our schools and teachers have provided superior education and spiritual formation over the years.

We have reflected on the invaluable treasure of our Catholic Faith during this process and are blessed to be able to provide such ready access to the Sacraments. We marvel at all the outreach programs, charity operations, faith formation, and countless opportunities for prayer and action that have nourished souls for generations and will continue to do so. We do not take anyone's generosity and support for granted.

It is our sincere hope that we will all approach this new model as it is implemented with understanding, patience, and renewed prayer for vocations to the Priesthood as well as a firm commitment to our personal life of holiness and Sacramental practice. It is certain that God will bless us as He always has, during this time and for all time.