

Transition Team Update

April 19, 2023

Thank you to all who attended the Palm Sunday town hall meeting!

Your attendance was a powerful witness to your faith and commitment to our Catholic Church. The group of over 200 parishioners of St Mark and St Mary identified almost 250 opportunities, challenges, and questions. The Holy Spirit was moving with and through the group. After the Holy Week, Easter, and Divine Mercy celebrations, the transition team had our first meeting to sort through the ideas and concerns you presented.

We identified three groupings of comments: **Spiritual**, **Social**, and **Structural**.

Spiritual includes thoughts connected with evangelization and growing our community as well as reversions, conversions, and strengthening our individual faith, e.g., parish missions, bible studies, and outreach.

Social includes those things that can build a strong relationship between the parishioners of St Mark and St Mary, e.g., increasing personal contact between the parishes through shared events and volunteer experiences.

Structural includes the issues going forward with parish operations, e.g., mass times, parking issues, staffing.

The transition team divided into 3 smaller teams to address the issues in each of these groups. We recognize that communication is critical during this process. You will find a link on each parish web site that links our two parishes together. Periodic updates will be published in the bulletin for both parishes. If you have input to provide, there will be suggestion boxes available in both churches or you can scan the QR code below to access the online form.

Re-stating what we know:

- Fr. Pete is retiring in July.
- Fr Eilerman has been appointed as Administrator for St Mark upon Fr. Pete's retirement.
- The St Mark property is an important asset for the Catholic Community in Lancaster.
- Bishop Fernandes will make final decisions around Pentecost.

The future of our Catholic Church depends on our response to the challenges Fr Sizemore explained. To the extent that we stay committed to learning about our faith, participate in mass and the sacraments, volunteer to help those in need, and contribute to the operations of our parishes, the future is filled with promise.

"I sought the Lord and He answered me, delivered me from all my fears" Psalm 34 v.5

