September 17, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

As summer comes to a close, I hope that you were able to enjoy some peaceful, easeful time with family and friends. For me, the past two months have been a time of transition, and I'm happy to report that I've been able to settle into my new living situation and into our newly formed parish, Holy Family-Notre Dame de Chicago.

We are still in the midst of making sense of the new challenges and realities we face now that Cardinal Cupich's decree has taken effect. Parishioners from both sites have inspired me with genuine faith and their love for our Church. Theirs, and your devotion and dedication to our worship and commitment to helping to shape our future, have strengthened me. I am honored to serve as priest and pastor for Holy Family-Notre Dame de Chicago.

I would like to invite you to attend our parish's first formal leadership meeting on Wednesday, September 25 at the Notre Dame de Chicago site. We will gather from 6pm to 8pm in the church hall to begin our work to structure and organize our parish's essential ministries and operations. Before activation into the Renew My Church (RMC) process, both worship sites possessed leadership groupings at various stages of involvement, readiness, and development. The unexpected activation into RMC impacted the vital work of Finance Councils, Parish Pastoral Councils, Liturgy Committees, and Social Justice/Service Ministries in varied ways. Your name was listed in the *"Parish Transition Workbook"* which both parishes compiled after the April decree which suppressed both Holy Family Parish and Notre Dame de Chicago as individual territorial parishes and united us into one new canonical identity; Holy Family-Notre Dame de Chicago. I sincerely hope that you will be able to participate in our first of many gatherings where we will plan and discern where our Lord has called us to be. Please RSVP either to my email at pmcquinn@archchicago.org or call the parish office at (312) 243-7400.

As you can see in the attached agenda, there are several meaty issues that need our attention. I do not expect that we will be able to resolve all the issues during our initial meeting, but I do hope that we can "define the terms," prioritize vital tasks, and identify unknown or overlooked issues. I will also share with you a basic timeline for the remainder of the fiscal year, with the goals we can achieve before June 30, 2020.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

I'll close with a piece of scripture that was in the Divine Office earlier this week. I found it to be a healthy reminder and inspirational. I hope you find value in it as well.

Peace,

Fr. Peter McQuinn

1 Peter 4:10-11

Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others. If you are a speaker, speak in words which seem to come from God; if you are a helper, help as though every action was done at God's orders; so that in everything God may receive the glory, through Jesus Christ, since to him alone belong all glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

Agenda
September 25, 2019
Essential Leadership Holy Family-Notre Dame de Chicago

I. **Prayer, Welcome, and Introductions** – 6:00-15pm

II. **Opening Comments: Fr Peter McQuinn**- 6:15-30pm
   a. Cardinal's Decree – clarification
   b. Parish Office Operations
   c. Operation's Director
   d. Pastoral Associate/Coordinator of Catholic 'Re-Evangelization'
   e. Liturgical Music Coordinator Search
   f. Children of Peace School

III. **Building Our New Reality**- 6:30-7:00pm
   a. Beginning with the 1st Sunday of Advent- "Dream and Journey with Joseph and Mary"
   b. February 2020- Introducing 'Alpha'
   c. Pentecost 2020- Naming of our new parish identity

IV. **Larger Vision- "To Dream or Maintain: Non-Negotiables"** – 7:00-7:45pm
   a. Overall Finances
   b. Budget
   c. Facilities
   d. Sunday Mass, Baptisms, Weddings, Bereavement/Infirmed/Homebound ministry, Corporal Works of Mercy

V. **Wrap Up/Next Steps** 7:45-8:00pm