

LAKE HURON CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

COMMUNICATION # 4

June 22, 2020

Lord, send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth! (Psalm 104)

This is the psalm refrain we heard proclaimed on Pentecost Sunday. This prayer invites us to celebrate the amazing power of the Holy Spirit! It calls us to make Pentecost a way of life and to embrace the full power and gift of the Holy Spirit.

Although we have moved to Ordinary Time already, we are invited to make the forgiveness, the peace and joy experienced on Pentecost an ordinary way of life for ourselves and our Family of Parishes. Just as the Spirit was sent forth at Pentecost and renewed the face of the earth, then we can imagine and work to renew our parishes as we strive to become a Family Parishes – a Family of Parishes which is mission-oriented and making disciples of Jesus. Once every living being is experiencing renewal and growth, then the planet would heal and violence and injustice would cease once and for all! And isn't that we need at this time?

Lord, send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth!

Our Transition Team is proving to be an effective group of parish leaders who continue to meet every two weeks. They have been working intentionally to bring a renewed energy and strength to our Family of Parishes with the help of the Holy Spirit. Although we have agreed upon a new Mass schedule, that schedule will not be used until we have completely opened our churches and returned to some form of a new normal.

In the meantime, the Transition Team is discerning about a Pastoral Plan for the first six months. One of the first goals of our Pastoral Plan is to acquire an updated list or database of parishioners in our Family of Parishes. Many pastors and parish leaders, throughout the diocese, have been making "Care Calls" during this time of pandemic. However, we quickly realized that our lists are not up-to-date. We have parishioners who have moved or old phone numbers since many are now using only cell phones and no email addresses in order to send valuable information to our parishioners. Therefore, if you are new to our parishes, have changed your phone or have an email address, please send an email to the parish office so we might update our files.

In his book, *Ablaze: Five Essential Paradigm Shifts For Parish Renewal*, Deacon Keith Strohm informs us, *the most effective way to ensure that transformation occurs is to lay a solid foundation of prayer. Leaders should create opportunities for leadership teams, volunteers and parishioners to pray together for the renewal of the parish.....leaders should identify their key intercessors, those men and women, who not only have a passion to pray for others but also possess a charisma for intercessory prayer (p. 107-108).* Inspired by these words, I have asked Monique Hartman, from St. Peter's Parish in St. Joseph, to assist me in forming an Intercessory Prayer Team. This team will pray together as we attempt to discern the movement of the Holy Spirit in our Family of Parishes. If you are interested in learning more or wish to be a part of this Intercessory Prayer Team, please contact me at tlaforet@dol.ca or Monique Hartman at mrsh0618@icloud.com.

Finally, we will soon have a new addition to our Pastoral Team when the Family of Parishes is initiated. Deacon John Lammers will be assigned to the Lake Huron Catholic Family of Parishes. We look forward to Deacon John serving our Family of Parishes.

“Fortify the men and women that have been given oversight of this community. Provide them with discerning hearts and the ability to make courageous decisions.” *(Taken from the Prayer for our Family of Parishes)*