

**COMPLETING THE MERGER PROCESS
SUMMARY OF THE ASSEMBLIES**

GROUPING NUMBER:	103
GROUPING NAME:	NEIGHBORS NORTH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY Saint Athanasius (West View), Incarnation of the Lord (Pittsburgh), Saint Sebastian (Ross Twp.) and Saint Teresa of Avila (Perrysville)

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ATTENDANCE	PRESENTERS
Saturday, March 7, 2020	5:15 pm (after the 4:00 pm Mass)	Athanasian Hall at Saint Athanasius	~110	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Janet Lindner (Pastoral Council, Saint Teresa of Avila) ▪ Ed Seiler (Pastoral Council, Saint Sebastian Parish)
Sunday, March 8, 2020	9:45 am (after the 8:30 am Mass)	Church hall at Incarnation	~20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tom Price (Finance Council, Saint Sebastian Parish) ▪ Jim Ricciardulli (Pastoral Council, Saint Athanasius)
Saturday, March 14, 2020	6:15 pm (after the 5:00 pm Mass)	School cafeteria at Saint Sebastian	~30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mary McDunn (Pastoral Council, Saint Sebastian) ▪ Amanda Vranesevic (Pastoral Council, Saint Teresa of Avila)
Sunday, March 15, 2020	12:15 pm (after the 11:00 am Mass)	in Schoppol Hall at Saint Teresa	~45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rita Morasco (Pastoral Council, Saint Teresa of Avila) ▪ Amanda Vranesevic (Pastoral Council, Saint Teresa of Avila)

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Assembly Background

- a. One of four assemblies being held March 7, 8, 14 & 15, 2020.
- b. Part of the process leading to the submission of four petitions (one by each parish) to merge with one another into a single parish in July 2020.

2. Assembly Purpose

- a. To ensure parishioners understand what is happening, why it is happening, how it will happen and what will happen next regarding the parish merger.

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- b. To invite parishioners to be an active part of a hope-filled future for a vibrant community of missionary disciples.

3. Assembly Agenda

- a. What's happening?
- b. Why is it happening?
- c. How will it happen?
- d. What are the next steps?
- e. What is the vision for the future?

4. What's Happening?

- a. The former parishes of St. Athanasius, Incarnation of the Lord, St. Sebastian, St. Teresa of Avila are joining to become a new, single parish
- b. The territory of the new, merged parish would have a total population of almost 51,000 people.
- c. There would be over 19,000 registered Catholics, although not all of those are active. For example, on an average weekend, 3,388 come to Mass.
- d. 33% of the registered parishioners live outside the boundaries of the new parish.

5. Key Terms

- a. Church with a capital "C" is the People of God, the community of those who "belong to the Lord."
- b. Parish is a portion of the People of God.
- c. "church" with a lower case "c" is a building set aside for public worship.

6. Merger Means...

- a. One parish (with four churches)
- b. One pastoral and administrative staff
- c. Combination of finances (all assets and liabilities)
- d. One administration
- e. A single, integrated program of Worship, Faith Formation, Social & Pastoral Outreach and Community Building

7. Our Collective Gifts

- a. Lay involvement
- b. Quality liturgy
- c. Excellent liturgical music
- d. Myriad opportunities for spiritual growth and development
- e. Strong faith formation programs for children and youth
- f. Commitment to service of those in need

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- g. History of responsible stewardship
- h. Well-organized and administered

8. Our Common Ministries – Already Merged

- a. Priests
- b. Deacons
- c. Music Ministries
- d. Youth Ministry
- e. Safe Environment
- f. Parish Social Ministry
- g. Facilities Management

9. Our Common Ministries – In Process

- a. Liturgical Ministries
- b. Faith Formation
- c. Facilities
- d. Administration
- e. Finances

10. Staffing

- a. A Staffing Plan for the New Parish is Being Developed with Two Objectives
 - i. Be fiscally responsible (affordable)
 - ii. Able to meet the needs of the new parish (vibrant)
- b. Some positions will be eliminated, and some staff will be laid off
 - i. Severance and unemployment compensation will be available

11. Finances — Strengths

- a. No long-term debt.
- b. Savings in all four parishes
- c. Unused funds from the Campaign for the Church Alive! will carry over.
- d. Currently able to maintain and improve our facilities.

12. Finances — Challenges

- a. Offertory is down.
- b. Had to use savings in 2018-19 to meet expenses
- c. Parish Share contributions in the aggregate do not meet the goal.
- d. How to use Campaign Funds considering original case statements and the needs of the new parish.

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13. Why is this happening?

- a. Call to be “The Church Alive!” in a sustainable way

14. Driving Forces for Merger

- a. Declines...
 - i. In the number of Catholics overall
 - ii. In the number of active Catholics
 - iii. In the funds available for ministry
 - iv. In the number of priests available
- b. Competition for...
 - i. Limited resources
 - ii. People’s time
 - iii. People’s attention
- c. Call to move from a Maintenance model of Church to a Missionary model
 - i. “I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation” (#27, *The Joy of the Gospel*, by Pope Francis).

15. Timeline

- a. April 2015: *On Mission!* process begins with year of prayer and study.
- b. September 2016: Parish consultations.
- c. April 2018: Groupings announces.
- d. October 2018: Groupings begin, new clergy teams commence, interim Mass schedule implemented.
- e. November 2019: Consultation on suggestions for name of new parish.
- f. March 2020: Parish assemblies.
- g. April 2020: Petitions to merge submitted.
- h. May 2020: Bishop consults Priest Council.
- i. By end of May 2020: Bishop issues decree for a new parish, announces clergy team and parish name.
- j. July 1, 2020: New parish begins.

16. A New Name for a New Parish

- a. Christ our Hope Parish
- b. Christ the Radiant Dawn Parish
- c. Jesus the Lamb of God Parish

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- d. Our Lady of Light Parish
- e. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish
- f. Saint Martin de Porres Parish
- g. Saint Paul VI Parish

17. A Vision of the Future—*Many People, One Family*

- a. Imagine a story written in 2025 about our new parish. Is the following story something that you would like to help create and to be a part of?
- b. The Headlines
 - i. Community Welcomes All
 - ii. Intergenerational Activity
 - iii. Warm Connections
 - iv. Needy Being Served
 - v. Joyful Prayer and Praise
 - vi. Committed to Spiritual Growth
- c. The Sidebars
 - i. CYO Musical Supports Poor in Peru
 - ii. Substance Abuse Ministry Touches Many
 - iii. Laity Share Leadership
 - iv. Future Leaders in Formation for Priesthood & Diaconate
 - v. Young Families Find Spiritual Home Here
 - vi. People Returning to the Faith
- d. The Quotes
 - i. “People from Diverse Backgrounds are Being Warmly Welcomed One Person at a Time.”
 - ii. “The Community Clearly Draws its Strength from Christ.”
 - iii. “Christ’s Call to Love is Alive and Vibrant Here.”

NOTES

- Participants were invited to submit questions in writing. 65 note cards with questions were turned in. These are being compiled and the most common and most universal are being answered in the parish bulletin.
- From the written questions, some individuals raised questions during the assembly. These were addressed by the grouping administrator, Father John Rushofsky, or by staff member, John Flaherty.