

September 30, 2021
Feast of St. Jerome

Dear Parishioners of St. Veronica & St. John Fisher Parishes,

Yesterday at the workshop with priests the proposed Families of Parishes plan was presented for discussion and input. *Though changes may still be made*, I want to let you know that at this time it has been proposed that our parishes would be in the following Families, effective July 1, 2022:

- St. Veronica, Mt. Carmel & St. Andrew, Milford
and in a separate family of parishes
- St. John Fisher, Newtown & Guardian Angels, Mt. Washington

You and I know that this is not the direction we had planned when we became a Pastoral Region in 2017, so this is going to be a change for both of our parishes. It is certainly not what I had envisioned when the Pastoral Region was formed.

When I looked at the “pastoral load” of each of our parishes, it makes complete sense to me that PartnersEdge, the consultation group that has sifted through the data which each parish submitted, made this recommendation. The pastoral load is determined by the number of parishioners, active parishioners (pre-Covid), parish activities, church building size, etc.

It is going to very important that parishioners who want to offer input do so by visiting **beaconsaoc.org** to give your thoughts. The site is open October 1 through October 20, 2021.

Also, we have Town Hall/Listening Session set up at 7:00 p.m. for St. Veronica parishioners on Tuesday, October 5 (in the cafeteria), and St. John Fisher parishioners on Wednesday, October 6 (in Pater Hall). I’m not sure that there will really be much more information than what I have shared here, but I want to give people a chance to talk through any questions they may have.

Pastors and parochial vicars for each of our Family of Parishes will most likely be named in February or March.

Though none of us knows the exact details of how any of these Family of Parishes will handle the transitions, it is important that we all remain positive and hopeful as we take the next steps in the months ahead. Thank you for your patience and support.

Fr. Del Staigers

Pastor

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