



Important Beacons of Light dates

In our continued effort to keep you informed as we have the past few months, there are some upcoming dates we would like to share.

Q. What is the Beacons of Light?

A. *Beacons of Light* is a process of comprehensive pastoral planning for our third century of faith in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The overall plan for Families of Parishes across the archdiocese will be completed by the end of 2021. The planning and implementation within each Family of Parishes, under the leadership of each pastor, will unfold over the next several years.

Q. What is a Family of Parishes?

A. A Family of Parishes is a grouping of parishes led by a single pastor and characterized by collaboration and shared resources. A parochial vicar (or multiple parochial vicars) or retired priest may also serve a Family of Parishes. The groupings have been developed over the last several months based in part on data that has been collected since 2020. The groups are determined in part by ministerial workload. A few parishes will continue to stand alone, but others will be grouped in two's and more.

Q. Why now?

A. At the high point of our history as a diocese, 1971, we had 417 active diocesan priests and 306 parishes. Today we have 127 Archdiocesan priests ministering in our 210 parishes. There are also 36 priests eligible for retirement in the next few years. The reduction in parishes over the years is mostly as a result of shifting populations from rural to suburban.

Q. What's next?

A. A very important meeting will take place September 29th for all the priests in the diocese. During the first several weeks of October (1st-20th), parishioners are invited to constructively comment on the Family of Parishes at www.BeaconsAOC.org. Before doing so, we invite you to one of four town hall sessions that we will be hosting in the Parish Hall. Father will explain what he has learned at the meeting this month, and we will try to answer your questions to the best of our ability. The town hall sessions will be held:

10/5 @ 9:45 a.m. ~ Kevin room

10/7 @ 7:00 p.m. ~ Brigid room

10/11 @ 1:15 p.m. ~ Patrick room

10/14 @ 7:00 p.m. ~ Brigid room

Visit www.beaconsAOC.org for all of this information and more and to sign up for the newsletter that will keep you informed of the plan and the progress. You can also find a link on the home page of www.stcolumban.org as well as the letter from Archbishop Schnurr. Please keep the success of the process in your prayers.