



Dear Parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo and St. Paul Catholic Center,

In the Spring of 2016, the Archdiocesan planning program, *Connected in the Spirit*, recommended the Catholic parishes in Bloomington form a partnership to enhance their ministry while avoiding unnecessary duplication of service and favoring a conservation of financial and personnel resources. We were also encouraged to capitalize upon the existing staffing resources of the parishes in religious education.

In November, we discussed *Connected in the Spirit* and what that might mean for our parishes. We discussed how the mission of St. Charles is focused on the religious education of families and children while St. Paul's is focused on ministry and education of the college students at Indiana University.

After extensive discernment and many conversations considering the guidance of *Connected in the Spirit*, we have decided to merge our religious education programs. In the Fall of 2021, the religious education for both of our parishes will be offered only at St. Charles Borromeo.

Because of some programming differences, St. Paul Catholic Center will provide some sacramental preparation in the 2021-22 school year: the second year of Confirmation classes and preparation for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for its parishioners with children in second grade. All other religious education classes and sacramental preparation classes for children will be provided at St. Charles Borromeo starting this Fall. We have also agreed that parishioners of both parishes will pay the same rate for religious education at St. Charles.

To help with the transition, St. Paul's will host some sessions for its parents after Easter to meet with and talk to Rose Johnson, the Coordinator of Religious Education at St. Charles.

We recognize the challenges of this transition, but we are genuinely excited and feel that our collaboration will strengthen the Church in Bloomington as both parishes focus on their strengths and mission. St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church and St. Paul Catholic Center will remain separate parishes and families are always welcomed at both locations.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Kovatch  
Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo

Fr. Patrick Hyde, OP  
Pastor, St. Paul Catholic Center