

## *Family of Parishes Update from Fr. Patrick – June 20, 2021*

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ! This weekend I have attempted to give a more in-depth update on Families of Parishes, utilizing the time for the homily to share the organizational structure that the Archdiocese has given us regarding this new initiative. You will be able to access the audio version of this homily and the slides used with it on our website, and they will also be shared through parish email as well. As we begin to be part of our Family of Parishes on July 1, the team of priests that serve our Family, with Fr. Jaime Hinojos as the **Moderator** and leader of our Family, will be working on two specific items: 1 – identifying the right candidate to serve as the **Mission Support Director** for the family, and 2 – working on the **Priests' Covenant**. The **Mission Support Director** is essentially the Director of Operations/Business Manager for the entire family. They will work with the Moderator and business personnel at the parish level to ensure healthy business operations across the family, both at the individual parish level and in regard to family fiscal matters (i.e., equitable sharing of cost for a ministry position that is shared between parishes.) The approach for our family regarding any ministry positions that are to be filled is to **look internally within our family for candidates** and then externally if a candidate cannot be found. I am confident we have excellent staff in our parish and Family who should be able to fill these positions and work together in the Family of Parishes structure.

The second item I mentioned is the **Priests' Covenant**. It is an extensive document we have been given from the Archdiocese that the priests on the team are to work through that will help to clarify how the priests will serve in the family and what kind of fraternal sharing of life they will have. I do believe this covenant agreement will result in me continuing in a capacity at Corpus Christi similar to that I have been in, and for this I am grateful. I believe God has great things in store for Corpus Christi.

One change of note that is coming with Families of Parishes is that a **Family Pastoral Council** and a **Family Leadership Team** will be formed that will function like our Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Leadership Team, but for the whole Family. These two consultative bodies will include two parishioners to give us parish representation on these family consultative bodies. Once these consultative bodies are formed, our Parish Pastoral Council and our Parish Leadership Team will be celebrated and then cease to function by the end of 2021. I do envision that our lay-led commissions and committees will continue as such in a solid relationship with both the person leading them at the parish level, the family pastor at the parish level (myself for Corpus Christi), and the **Directors** of the various areas of ministry which their commission or committee falls under in the new organizational structure. Next week, I will be writing about the **five Director positions** that are part of Mission Direct. Again, you can listen to the audio homily from this weekend on our website and check out the slides, as well to get a feel for the structure of Families of Parishes that I spoke on.

I'd also like to share that the Archdiocese has recently issued some timelines that have been prescribed to the Moderator and the team of priests for when various components of this new structure should ideally be in place, such as **have the Mission Support Director in place by September 1<sup>st</sup> and the 5 Mission Direct Directors in place by October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Under the leadership of Fr. Jaime and the unified efforts of the team, we will do the best we can regarding timelines but are also mindful that we need to operate in a spirit of peace and wisdom. If doing something the right way takes longer than the deadline suggests, that's the route that will be taken unless we are notified to do otherwise, which we do not think will be the case.