



Joint Parish Statement

Since 2015, the Diocese of Pittsburgh has been engaged in an extensively collaborative process to insure “vibrant parishes” and “effective ministries” as part of On Mission for the Church Alive! On April 26, 2018 Bishop Zubik will officially announce the Parish Groupings and Clergy Staffing. The changes will take effect on October 15, 2018.

As part of this broad collaborative effort which already includes priests, parishes, the On Mission Commission, the Priest Council, and the Diocesan Pastoral Council, there has been an ongoing examination and review of the recommended parish groupings. Keep in mind that no decisions have been made as this is still the consultation phase of the process. These proposed groupings are simply recommendations and possibilities.

It is the desire of the bishop to be transparent about the possible groupings that have surfaced in addition to what was announced to date. You know those that were published as a result of the work of the commission, but not the other possibilities that surfaced as a result of the continued consultation.

For our region, it has been suggested that the bishop consider: **1) a grouping that combines the parishes of St. John (Coyleville), St. Joseph (North Oakland), Mater Dolorosa, and St. Wendelin;** 2) a grouping that combines the parishes of Holy Sepulcher, St. Joseph (Cabot), and St. Mary of the Assumption (Herman); 3) a grouping that combines the parishes of St. Gregory and Holy Redeemer; and 4) a grouping that combines the parishes of St. Ferdinand and St. Kilian.

Because the impact is for the entire Diocese of Pittsburgh and not simply one parish, it is a delicate dance to find the best fit for the parish groupings. Given the goals of *On Mission* and the need for a pastoral sensitivity and vision that provides care in every part of the six counties, it remains a work in progress.

Recently the pastors of these aforementioned parishes met together with diocesan officials to discuss the newly proposed models. They are currently meeting with their On Mission Teams to review these proposed amendments which, again, are just possibilities. As a matter of the transparency the bishop desires, we have prepared this unified update which is being published in all of our bulletins this weekend.

All of us pastors are committed to keeping you informed about this process as it relates to our respective parishes. Please pray for Bishop Zubik and all those associated with this widely extensive and prayer filled consultation process. May we all work together “to learn Jesus, love Jesus and live Jesus.”

Very Reverend Samuel J. Esposito, VE
Episcopal Vicar for Implementation
On Mission for the Church Alive!