

CLUSTER 28 TRANSITION COMMITTEE

St. Joseph Parish, St. Patrick Parish, St. Pius X Parish, St. Brigid School

Cluster Mass Schedule:

Thanks to all of you who participated in the town hall meeting last Sunday at St. Pius X to discuss the draft Mass schedule. From my point of view, it was a good conversation where people expressed valid concerns as well as positive comments about the changes that are coming. At the meeting of the Cluster Transition Committee this past Monday evening, we reviewed our notes from that meeting as well as the other comments we have received in a variety of forms over the past couple of weeks. We revisited a number of our own questions and concerns in light of those comments and again came to consensus about our priorities in the choices being made. I will continue to reflect on these meetings and pray about the draft for a few more days before making a final determination. Next weekend the bulletin insert will present these decisions along with a reiteration of the rationale for them. Although **these changes will not go into effect until August 2nd**, it is important to finalize the schedule at this time in order to allow families to again schedule Mass intentions. Also, having this period of time between the setting of the new schedule and its enactment will allow individuals and families to think creatively about adjusting their schedule and activities if the Mass they normally participate in has been changed or eliminated.

Cluster Office:

Pam Fogg, Mary Gordon and I continue to meet regularly to plan the office merger that will take place on July 1st. The main cluster office will be located on the first floor of the Friary at St. Joseph. I remind you, however, that we will continue a regular office presence at the other two churches. We are currently working on a technology plan including a single phone system that will allow easy transference of calls to all three sites. A common cluster bulletin should start around the beginning of June. We are also building a common calendar in our computer system to enable us to easily schedule Mass intentions and other events in our many buildings. We will begin meeting with the St. Brigid School administration right after Easter to determine how the Cluster office will interact with and support the school office. We hope that by July we will be able to affect a smooth transition.

Cluster Spirit:

Acknowledging that change is always challenging and sometimes difficult, I want to again thank all of you for your prayers and support during this period of planning for our future. As with all such transitions I have been involved in, I find myself each day wishing there was a way to please everybody, but the circumstances necessitate otherwise: there must be some loss and change and challenge in order to move forward. Our Lord tells us, *“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains but a grain of wheat.”* God is calling us forward in a creative and compassionate way to build a new, larger community. God is calling us to break out of some of our molds, inviting us to make new friends, drawing us into a new adventure of life and of hope. While we don't know exactly where we are going right now, and that can make us uncomfortable, we know that the Lord is leading us to a good place and that our God will be with us both on the journey and at the end.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with me (lafortainesj@live.com) or one of the other committee members if at any time you have input you wish to share – you can call your parish or school office for contact information. Please continue to keep us and this process in your prayers.

- Fr. Jim Lafontaine