

# Road to Renewal Recommendations



## From Fr. Mike's Desk

As we move forward in the process of evaluating where we will go from here based on the recommendations of the Road to Renewal Office, let us keep in mind that we are all members of the Body of Christ. It is disappointing and frustrating knowing the efforts our Family made over the course of the last eleven months to be a Family of five parishes, but it proves what we are capable of when we are coming together.

There are multiple factors that will come into play when creating our recommendation response to the diocese. In hearing from many of you, the People of God, and listening to many of our parishioners who have served as leaders in our communities for many years in many capacities, I feel the angst and sorrow.

I know, we all know, that whatever decision is made, not everyone will be happy. All I ask is that we be open to new opportunities in ministry. I took comfort in the opening prayer last weekend for the Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: *O God, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it.*

We pray for the right thing.

Finally, may God bless all those with a fatherly role in our lives. Through the intercession may all fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and the like be blessed in their important roles in our society on this Father's Day Weekend.

In Good Faith,  
Fr. Michael

## **Recommendations for Family #18**

1) Projected number of active priests for this family by 2030 = 3

2) Based upon scoring and metrics, it is recommended that the family right size and reshape this family evaluating the following recommendations:

a. St. Francis of Assisi is recommended to merge with Our Lady of Czestochowa in North Tonawanda

*\*b. Sale of St. Francis of Assisi buildings that can be sold.*

c. St. Andrew Kim Mission is recommended to merge with St. Leo the Great

d. Sale of the property to be determined by the Diocese.

e. St. Jude in North Tonawanda is recommended to merge with Our Lady of Czestochowa

f. Sale of St. Jude property that can be sold.

## **Justifications**

1. St. Francis has decreasing contribution levels with negative net operating trends.

2. St. Francis of Assisi is 6 minutes from Our Lady of Czestochowa

3. With decreasing number of priests to minister in this family, decreasing the number of locations is necessary

#4 & #5 focus on St. Andrew Kim

*\*6. Merger of St. Jude is a strategic decision based upon the number of priests available to minister and its location to other parishes in this family. St. Jude also has the lowest 3 year rolling average contribution level per household and has a negative operating balance.*

*\*Recommendation or Justification that needs deep review*

## Best Data for Each Parish

- Our Lady of Czestochowa:** Highest increase of contributing households over the last three years.
- St. Amelia:** Highest Mass attendance and highest average number of baptisms per year (34.3) over last three years.
- St. Christopher:** Second highest number of registered households over last three years & second highest Mass attendance.
- St. Francis of Assisi:** Lowest net operating loss over last three years (all parishes negative).
- St. Jude the Apostle:** Highest increased registered households over last three years.

## Worse Data for Each Parish

- Our Lady of Czestochowa:** Lowest number of baptisms
- St. Amelia:** Largest decrease in number of registered households over last three years.
- St. Christopher:** Highest loss in contributing households over the last three years.
- St. Francis of Assisi:** Only parish with negative trends for both registered and contributing households over three years.
- St. Jude the Apostle:** Registered households increase (47) is less than the decrease (49) in contributing households over three years.

## When it comes to facilities, each parish has something to offer that is of benefit to the greater community

- Geography:** St. Christopher offers the most centralized location, while St. Francis and Our Lady of Czestochowa offer the lowest score based on geography.
- Condition:** All five locations are considered to be in good condition with no major/immediate needs.
- Infrastructure/Capacity:** All sites can handle in influx from parishes that would merge/close.

## Quick Q&A

**What happens to liquid assets of merged/closed community?** In the immediate future they would be frozen and only be used to maintain property of merged/closed parish up until point of sale. After sale, assets from sale and liquid assets would be used towards a portion of court settlement.

**Would the Mass schedule change?** We would like see at least two additional Masses added to the weekend Mass schedule, with some reshuffling of the daily Mass schedule.

**When will closures be official?** Final announcements will be made by the diocese, on or around September 1. This does not mean parishes would close on September 2. A time frame would be established and shared so that proper celebration of the communities can take place.

**Would the “Family” structure remain in place?** Even by reducing the number of parishes to three, we would remain in a Family structure for operations.

**What about St. Francis’ Columbarium/chapel?** The columbarium/chapel at St. Francis is an important ministry and part of the Tonawanda community. This will be looked at closely as part of our recommendation to the diocese.