

From Fr. Mike's Desk

I would first like to begin by expressing my gratitude for everyone who attended our Family Meetings a couple of weeks ago at OLC and St. Amelia. I thought the meetings were well attended, with good questions asked, and insight was gained. We know that whatever the final decision is for our Family of Parishes communities are going to be hurt, but new communities will form and grow.

In this bulletin as you review information given please remember whatever decisions we made cannot be made with a "survival of the fittest" mindset. We need to think of the greater communities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda and how the Church can have a presence.

Please join us on Sunday June 30 at 7:00pm at St. Christopher for a special holy hour. We will have exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 7:00pm and concluding with benediction at 8:00pm. Come for 10minutes, come for an hour; it will serve as a time for us to come together and to pray together.

The priests and deacons of our Family are here to serve, and we will continue to serve to the best of our ability during this time, nothing will change. Even after announcements are made in late August early September, we are still several months away from anything actually happening.

In Good Faith,
Fr. Michael

The recommendations distributed the past two weeks to all vicariates of the Diocese of Buffalo were created utilizing the following process.

Renewal Team

Fr. Bryan Zielenieski, Vicar for Renewal and Development
Deacon Greg Moran, Strategic planning for Renewal
Sara Osmanski, Project Coordinator for Renewal
Tara Potzler, Program specialist for Renewal
Sr. Louise Alff, Evangelization and Outreach/Inreach
Coordinator for Renewal

Renewal/Chapter 11 Task Force Group

Fr. Peter Karalus, Vicar General
Fr. Bryan Zielenieski, Vicar for Renewal
Jim Beardi, chair of Ch. 11 task force group
Msgr. Robert Zapfel, Vicar Forane, Northern Erie Vicariate,
Diocesan Finance Council
Karen Howard, Diocesan Finance Council
Fr. Mark Noonan, Pastor, ONE Catholic, Family #11
Rick Suchan, COO Diocese of Buffalo
Melissa Potzler, Chancellor, Diocese of Buffalo
Albert Gregg, CFO Diocese of Buffalo

Process:

1. Data from parish yearly financial reports for the last ten years was reviewed and presented to the Renewal Team by the finance and audit departments of the Diocese.
2. Data from parish yearly sacramental reports was shared from the research and planning department of the Diocese with the Renewal Team.
3. Census data, demographic data, geography, historical parish relationship data was all compiled by the Renewal Team
4. Use of Catholic Leadership Institute data collected from each parish in the Diocese analyzing age, contribution levels, activity levels and spiritual life of people and parishes.
5. All data and trending was analyzed by Renewal Team and recommendations took a rough draft form
6. Fr. Bryan engaged in conversations with each Vicar Forane to discuss rough drafts, and ask for further insight and recommendations from their expertise in the vicariates.
7. Fr. Bryan modified recommendations putting them into a more final version with justifications for the recommendations.
8. Share the process and recommendations with other Diocese who have gone through this for their input and guidance.
9. The recommendations were shared with the Renewal/Chapter 11 Task Force Group for review and modifications.
10. Fr. Bryan made modifications to recommendations and justifications for final draft version to be presented to Vicariate meetings with Priests, Deacons and Trustees

In this chart we can see Net Operating Balances over the last ten years. St. Christopher and St. Amelia both face challenges with school operations but St. Christopher School currently has 60+ students more registered for '24-'25 school year than currently enrolled. St. Jude has had the lowest overhead with personnel which has helped maintain healthy balances. St. Francis has also been able to have a healthy balance with lower overhead. St. Amelia Community's success in fundraising helps maintain its surplus. OLC has had some significant projects which has helped ensure lower need in the future.

***A Negative Net Operating Balance DOES NOT indicate debt. As of July 31, 2024 none of our five parishes will have any debt**

	OL Czešt.	St Amelia	St Christopher	St Francis As	St Jude..Ap
	N Tonawanda	Tonawanda	Tonawanda	Tonawanda	N Tonawanda
2014	(\$76,019)	(\$35,756)	\$140,431	(\$51,768)	(\$908,970)
2015	\$22,093	\$32,384	(\$163,318)	\$2,023	\$115,484
2016	\$21,506	\$315,274	(\$264,631)	\$7,521	\$146,207
2017	\$23,312	(\$216,614)	\$250,517	\$35,575	\$147,846
2018	(\$20,614)	(\$166,946)	\$212,672	(\$50,980)	\$142,293
2019	(\$11,604)	(\$42,727)	(\$228,557)	\$17,104	\$98,680
2020	(\$25,957)	\$236,793	\$141,155	\$4,378	\$147,473
2021	(\$15,063)	\$780,635	(\$154,072)	\$17,819	\$157,522
2022	(\$11,522)	\$409,074	(\$170,158)	(\$55,451)	\$45,098
2023	(\$45,662)			\$1,373	\$70,478

Parish	Registered Households 3yrs - Diff	Contributing Households 3yrs - Diff	Contribution Level 3yrs - Diff	Sacraments Baptisms / Year Ave. (4yrs)	Net Operating Balance 3yrs 2020 to 2022	Net Operating Balance 3yrs 2021 to 2023	Trending
Our Lady of Czestochowa	1,232 / 7	993 / 50	\$430 / (\$3)	11.3	(\$17,514)	(\$24,082)	-38%
St Amelia	2,176 / (311)	1,380 / 44	\$865 / (\$26)	34.3	\$324,900	\$475,501	46%
St Christopher	2,385 / 40	1,401 / (166)	\$535 / \$46	30.7	(\$80,491)	(\$61,025)	24%
St Francis of Assisi	912 / (43)	367 / (67)	\$1,053 / \$67	25.7	(\$11,085)	(\$12,086)	-9%
St Jude the Apostle	3,676 / 47	1,351 / (49)	\$391 / \$25	29.7	\$116,698	\$91,033	-22%

In this chart we can focus on registered and contributing households. We see three of our five communities have a negative trend. Registered parishioners is different than Contributing. Contributing Households attend Mass, volunteer in various roles, are invested in the viability of the community. Baptisms are difficult to rely on as their practice of the faith following baptism is sporadic.



Our Lady of Czestochowa • Saint Amelia
Saint Christopher • Saint Francis • Saint Jude

Parish	Net Operating Balance 3yrs 2022 / 2023	Trending	Both Positive	Pos Bal / Neg Trend	Neg Bal / Pos Trend	Neg / Neg Trend
Our Lady of Czestochowa	(\$17,514)	-38%				Yes
	(\$24,082)					
St Amelia	\$324,900	46%	Yes			
	\$475,501					
St Andrew Kim	\$7,498	25%	Yes			
	\$9,379					
St Christopher	(\$80,491)	24%			Yes	
	(\$61,025)					
St Francis of Assisi	(\$11,085)	-9%				Yes
	(\$12,086)					
St Jude the Apostle	\$116,698	-22%		Yes		
	\$91,033					

Possible Outcomes for Financial Data

If Both Positive:

- Net Op Bal is Positive: Parish has a positive net operating balance, indicating surplus.
- Trending is Positive: The percent change from the previous period is positive, indicating growth or improvement.
- Implication: The financial health is strong, with both a surplus and an improving trend.

If Net Op Bal is Positive but Trending is Negative:

- *Net Op Bal is Positive: There is a surplus.
- *Trending is Negative: The percent change from the previous period is negative, indicating a decline or worsening trend.
- *Implication: Despite having a surplus, the financial situation is deteriorating, and if the trend continues, it might lead to a deficit in the future

If Net Op Bal is Negative but Trending Positive

- Net Op Bal is Negative: The parish has a deficit or loss.
- Trending is Positive: The percent change from the previous period is positive, indicating improvement or recovery.
- Implication: Although currently in a deficit, the financial situation is improving. If the positive trend continues, the entity may recover to a surplus.

If Both are Negative:

- Net Op Bal is Negative: There is a deficit or loss.
- Trending is Negative: The percent change from the previous period is negative, indicating further decline or worsening trend.
- Implication: The financial situation is poor and deteriorating further. Immediate action may be required to prevent further losses

It is projected that over the next 15 years we will lose 1,428 parishioners because of age.

Our total average number of weekend attendance at Masses at all sites is under 3,000

**St. Amelia Church seats a little over 1,000. Statistically, we can have one site with three Masses to accommodate total number of weekend Mass attendees.*

A transition team will be established for any parish named to merge with another.

Young Person (Y) to Older Parishioner Lost (L)

Leadership Team:

Members of Parishes

Ratio

OLC: Bob Hart (trustee) Donna McCrohan (trustee), Jessica King

St. Francis of Assisi

1Y : L 5.0

St. Amelia: Bob Wunsch (trustee) Robert Goodwin (trustee), Angel Beiter

St. Christopher

1Y: L 5.1

St. Christopher: Bob Vail (trustee) Shirley Joy (trustee), Diane Ventresca

St. Amelia

1Y: L 5.7

St. Francis: Linda Carlson (trustee), Jerry Trimper (trustee), Fred Hamp

St. Jude the Apostle

1Y: L 5.8

St. Jude: John Colvin (trustee), Joe Mantione (trustee), Philip Johnson

Our Lady of Czestochowa

1Y: L 6.8

Fr. Michael, Fr. Sibby, Fr. Rob, Dcn. Mike, Dcn. Paul, Dcn. John, Dcn. Dave, Dcn. Ken, Dcn. Dan. Fr. Jay & Msgr. Weldgan also invited to meetings.

Reasons to Keep Each Parish Open

Our Lady of Czestochowa

- 1) Architectural History & beauty
- 2) City population served w/ limited mobility
- 3) Could serve "city" and "suburban" population
- 4) Passionate congregation

St. Amelia Church

- 1) Largest worship space to handle influx
- 2) Financial stability
- 3) Facilities in very good condition
- 4) Passionate congregation

St. Christopher Church

- 1) Newest of worship space facilities
- 2) Centrally located on Niagara Falls Boulevard
- 3) Financial Stability
- 4) Passionate congregation

St. Francis of Assisi Church

- 1) History and service to city of Tonawanda
- 2) City population served w/ limited mobility
- 3) Chapel/Columbarium
- 4) Passionate congregation

St. Jude the Apostle Parish

- 1) Newest gathering space facility
- 2) Location for growing Niagara County residentials
- 3) Financial Stability
- 4) Passionate congregation

***Catholic Schools' viability in Diocese of Buffalo are being looked at separately**

email questions comments concerns to:

rcctquestions@gmail.com

Please put your parish in the "Subject"

Family

Eucharistic

Holy Hour

Sunday June 30, 2024

7:00pm

St. Christopher

Church



7:00pm- Exposition
8:00pm- Benediction