

NEWS REGARDING OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES

Dear Friends,

Today I continue to offer you the newest updates to our Families of Parishes... As our parishes come together to form our Family of Parishes, we have begun to discuss the practical ways in which the clergy and staff will interact within the family, as well as finalizing some new leadership structure, including items such as leadership teams, key staff mission, and operations staff positions.

During this process, it may appear that we are losing some staff members, but at the same time, some families will be able to add positions that better serve the mission going forward. All staffing decisions are left to the discernment of each family of parishes, led by parish leadership and with assistance, as needed, from the Archdiocese of Detroit Curia.



As our family begins to take shape, we will continue to discern and pray about how to organize various “mission direct” and “mission support” ministries.

So, what are What are the “Mission Direct” ministries?

To accomplish the goal of becoming a missionary church, five areas of ministry that reflect a vibrant and evangelizing parish have been identified:

1. **Discipleship Formation**, or what in the past we called Faith Formation, is the overseeing all aspects of disciple formation in the family. The **Director of Discipleship Formation**, whom at this time we have identified as **Linda Kramer**, from **St. Edith’s**, will with the assistance of Ellen O’Neil and Colleen Misiak, will identify, recruit and form catechists; they will assist the school faculty in the preparation of creative, spirit-filled liturgies and sacramental experiences; and other related tasks.



2. **Engagement**, assisting parishioners by equipping them for the service of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The director of engagement, whom we’ve identified as **Deacon Ric** and his wife **Colleen**, will supervise, those working in ministry placement, evangelization, communications, RCIA, hospitality, and ecumenical ministries.

3. **Evangelical Charity**, what you and I have known as Christian Service, is a position to ensure a full response to Catholic social teaching through charity in areas of human need, both within the parish and beyond. The Director of Evangelical Charity, whom we have identified as **Cindy Portis**, from **St. Colette**, will oversee those working in human services; community outreach; visitation of the sick and homebound; Stephen Ministry; and funeral luncheon ministries.



4. **Family Ministries**, assisting families living as domestic churches in their homes. The Director of Family Ministry, identified as **Deacon Don Esler** from **St. Edith’s** will supervise those working with infant baptism; marriage preparation, and family support group ministries.

5. **Worship**, facilitating the worship life of the community by coordinating and providing quality prayer and liturgical experiences. Father Tom Belczak from St. Kenneth, will assume the role of Director of Worship, working with each of our Music directors, and all of those working in liturgy; parish music; prayer groups; and wake service ministries.





What are the “mission support” ministries?

Mission support ministries primarily support the Family of Parishes through functions that do not work directly, per se, with the faithful, and are designed to give pastors, moderators, and other clergy more time for missionary work. The mission support team encompasses, but is not limited to, finance, accounting, human resources, information technology and facility maintenance. We have now identified Julie Lupo, presently our Parish Administrator as the Director of Mission Support.

Family mission support teams will be led by family mission support directors and usually will be comprised of existing personnel from each of the parishes. Julie will serve as the single point of contact for the “one pastor” or moderator, and the mission support team serving our entire family.

On the Missionary Trail with you,
Father Denis