

Message from our Pastor

The **Beacons of Light process** specifically invites all Catholics of the Archdiocese to embrace the fact that we are all a part, i.e. each parish is a part, of the Local Church. In this process every parish will be aligned with one, two, three and more parishes and be called “A Family of Parishes.”

On Tuesday August 31, Deacon Royce, the chairs of each Council, Percy Stricklin (Pastoral Council), Michaelle Jones (Stewardship Council) and Janie Allen-Blue (Finance Council) and Bernie Young of the Pastor’s Advisory Team (founded after Amazing Parish May 2019) accompanied me to a Deanery Meeting. I thought that the process was designed to solicit input from our Parish Leadership Groups and interested parishioners in this two-hour meeting. Instead, we had to challenge the presenters about being only given three weeks to collect our feedback. They had mainly envisioned individual parishioners getting on-line, looking at the data and giving their input. I stressed that the best input is received through interaction and personal conversations with parishioners. On September 29th at the All-Clergy Convocation, every priest will receive the first draft of Family of Parishes. It will be likely that The Church of the Resurrection will be aligned with two or more other parishes as a “Family of Parishes.” We will develop three [3] opportunities to engage parishioners in providing feedback on the proposed alignment of the Family of Parishes. The forums will be held between **October 1 - 20**. I cannot stress the importance enough about giving our input. Once we receive your feedback, I will submit a response to the Beacons of Light Planning Team. Upon their deliberation of our response and the response of the other aligned parishes, they will submit a written report to Archbishop Schnurr. It is anticipated that the Archbishop will make his final decision about the make-up of each Family of Parishes by the end of November 2021. From early January 2022, it will be upon our parish to enter into this pastoral planning process with the other parishes in our Family of Parishes in order to be prepared for what lies ahead. So what lies ahead? It was said that by Easter 2022 all priest will know what Family of Parishes they would have been assigned and would begin their new assignment on July 1, 2022. Beginning July 2022, there will be one pastor and one parochial vicar (assistant priest) for each Family of Parishes. Mass schedules will likely be greatly adjusted and put in place by July 1st, 2022. Then over the next five years each Family of Parishes would be working toward becoming one parish. What that will look like is determined through prayer, discernment, dialogue, many levels of research, and getting input which will lead to decision-making at the local level. Our plan is presented for approval well in advance of implementation.

It is paramount that you have the foundational background about the Beacons of Light process so that these sessions can be well focused. Please continue to keep yourself informed by signing up for the Beacons of Light Newsletter and to pray for the **Beacons of Light process**.

I will be taking a Retreat from September 12th afternoon through the 19th. I decided to take some intimate time for prayer and reflection before receiving the Draft Alignment Families of Parishes.

Rev. David Lemkuhl