

June 11, 2024



Dear Members of the Central Niagara Catholic Family,

As we prepare to make some necessary changes, we cannot be indifferent to the consternation and grief that come with letting go of what has been most meaningful to us. We cannot forget that it was the generosity and dedication of our families that built and sustained these sacred places that have been the sanctuaries of our highest values and most treasured memories. They have served as outward signs of hope and welcome to the wider community. And so, we call upon God's blessing and help as we take the next step in the diocesan plan for rightsizing and reshaping. It remains our hope that the faith and generosity that built our parishes will never be forgotten and will continue to be fruitful as they continue to be integrated into our mission in new ways. While we have every reason to love and treasure our parishes, these times remind us that we need to love and cherish our Lord and our fellow members of His body even more. Trust that He shares all of our pain and continues to lead us deeper into His love, even when the cumber of the journey can make that hard to believe.

While this is not easy, it is crucial we pray earnestly that the Holy Spirit guides the minds and hearts of all who will be involved in the reshaping of our family. We pray that all may be done according to God's loving plan. As we take note of some discouraging statistics and projections that our diocese has issued, it is important that we do not lose heart and that we persevere in praying for providence. We also remember the promise of Jesus that the gates of the netherworld will not prevail against His Church. Many of us in our family may be familiar with the wisdom of St. Francis de Sales, "Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imagination." Let us take heart in being certain that our God can provide more abundantly than we can ever expect and pray that we may embody what is truly needed for renewal and mission.

Please be assured that regardless of whatever changes may lie ahead, there are two things that will not change. First, the love of our God will remain constant, and will continue to be our stable hope amid many changes. Second, you are a valued member of our family, and your Church needs and appreciates you.

Consultation with parish leadership regarding this proposal will begin shortly. Updates will be provided as they occur.

May God guide and accompany us at every step.

Sincerely in Christ,

Priests-In-Solidum



Recommendations for Family #10

1. Projected number of active priests for this family by 2030 = 2
2. Based upon scoring and metrics, it is recommended that the family rightsize and reshape this family evaluating the following recommendations:
 - a. St. Brendan on the Lake - close Wilson site
 - b. Sale of Wilson entire site
 - c. All Saints, Lockport
 - i. Merge with St. John in Lockport
 - ii. Closure and sale of All Saints location
 - iii. Closure and sale of St. Joseph campus
 - d. St. Patrick in Barker will move into family #10 at an agreed upon time between Families 10, 11, and 34
 - e. Immaculate Conception Parish in Ransomville will move to family # 34 at an agreed upon time between families 10, 11, and 34.

Justification

1. The number of priests available to minister in this family with the number of sites was a direct reason for these recommendations.
2. All Saints condition of the church building and proximity to St. John's is the reason for this recommendation.
3. Wilson's proximity to Youngstown (17 min), Ransomville (12 min), Olcott in the summer (9 min) influenced this decision.
4. The former school building at St. John's will need to be updated to accommodate the faith formation program. This will also allow the food pantry to continue.
5. The recommendation to move parishes between families was because of consultation with the Vicar Forane and his conversation with priests in this area. This will need to be discussed further for a timeline for this to happen.

Family Next Steps

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| 1. Vicariate Meetings to Present Recommendations | June 3-14 |
| 2. Family Leadership Evaluation of Recommendations | June 30 |
| 3. Family Leadership Recommendation to Diocese of Buffalo | July 15 |
| 4. Plan Evaluation/Acceptance by Diocese of Buffalo | August 30 |
| 5. Closure Date | TBD w/Family & Diocese |