

# Parish Unification Plan



November 24, 2019

# Opening Prayer

## Prophets of a Future Not Our Own

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.  
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.  
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.  
No statement says all that could be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith.  
No confession brings perfection.  
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.  
This is what we are about.  
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.  
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.  
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.  
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.  
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own.

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*This prayer was first presented by Cardinal Dearden in 1979 and quoted by Pope Francis in 2015.*

# Welcome and Introductions

- Fr. Rodney
- Fr. Jack
- Unification Team Members
- Today's Speakers
  - Christopher Servant, St. Mark's
  - Miles Miller, St. Mary's
  - Daniel Parkinson, Sacred Heart
- Fr. Tim Reis, Pastor St. Mary's in Norton and Member of Diocese Planning Leadership Team
- Laura Carrillo, Director of Strategic & Pastoral Planning, Diocese of Fall River

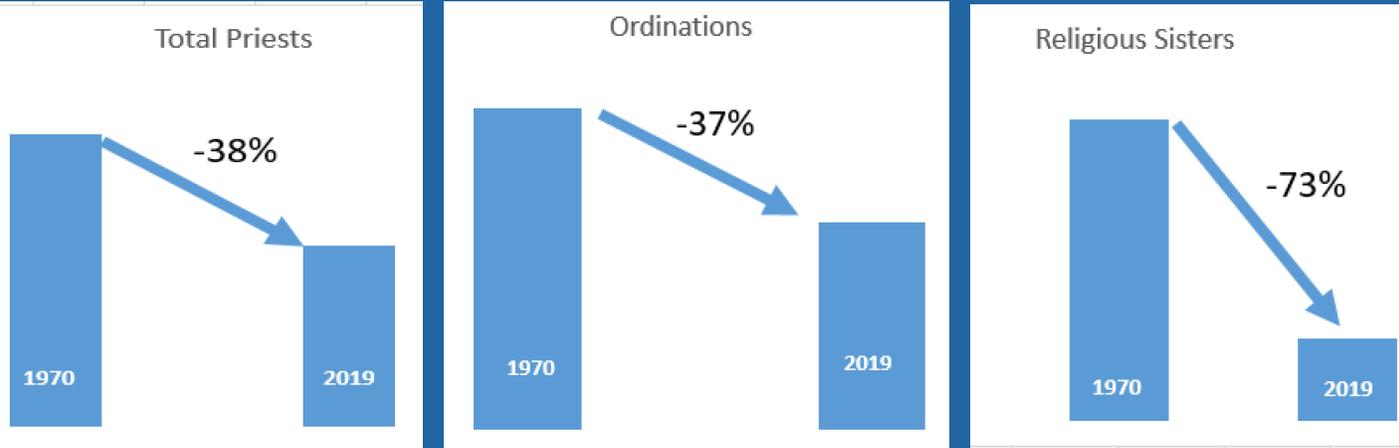
# Agenda

- Background
- Moving forward together
- What's in it for you?
- What happens next?
- Common questions and Q&A

# *How Did We Get Here?*

# Catholicism in America the last 50 years

## Religious Personnel



**Baptisms  
DOWN 44%**

**Monthly Mass  
Attendance  
DOWN  
37%**

**3,363 parishes w/o a  
resident priest UP 589%**

***Maintaining the status quo  
is not an option***

*We need to take our community of faith  
in a direction that will build a  
**BETTER, STRONGER, SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE***

# *Moving forward together*



**Unify our parishes to become  
1 parish with 3 churches**

**Submitted for approval:  
Transfiguration of the Lord Parish**

**At St. Mark's Church  
At Sacred Heart Church  
At St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church**

**What is the intent of parish unification?**

**Utilize Strategic & Pastoral Planning  
to allow for parishioners and clergy  
to work TOGETHER**

# Proposed structure for moving forward

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Unification  
Assembly

Finance &  
Administration  
Assembly

Buildings & Grounds  
Assembly

Pastoral & Future  
Needs Assembly

# Assembly Team Members

## Pastoral & Future Needs

Jack Fitzgibbons, Jr.  
Armand Brunelle Jr.  
Manju Yoder  
Colleen Ford  
Diane Rinkacs  
Herb McEvoy  
Pat Szczebak  
Shawn Sweet  
Marc Brunelle  
Joanne MacDonald  
Joanna Wissler  
Deacon Joe Regali  
Diane Garrow  
Emily Ducharme  
Rachel Ducharme  
Lisa Bradley  
Dan Bradley  
Lynn McAfee  
Jane Shepard

## Buildings & Grounds

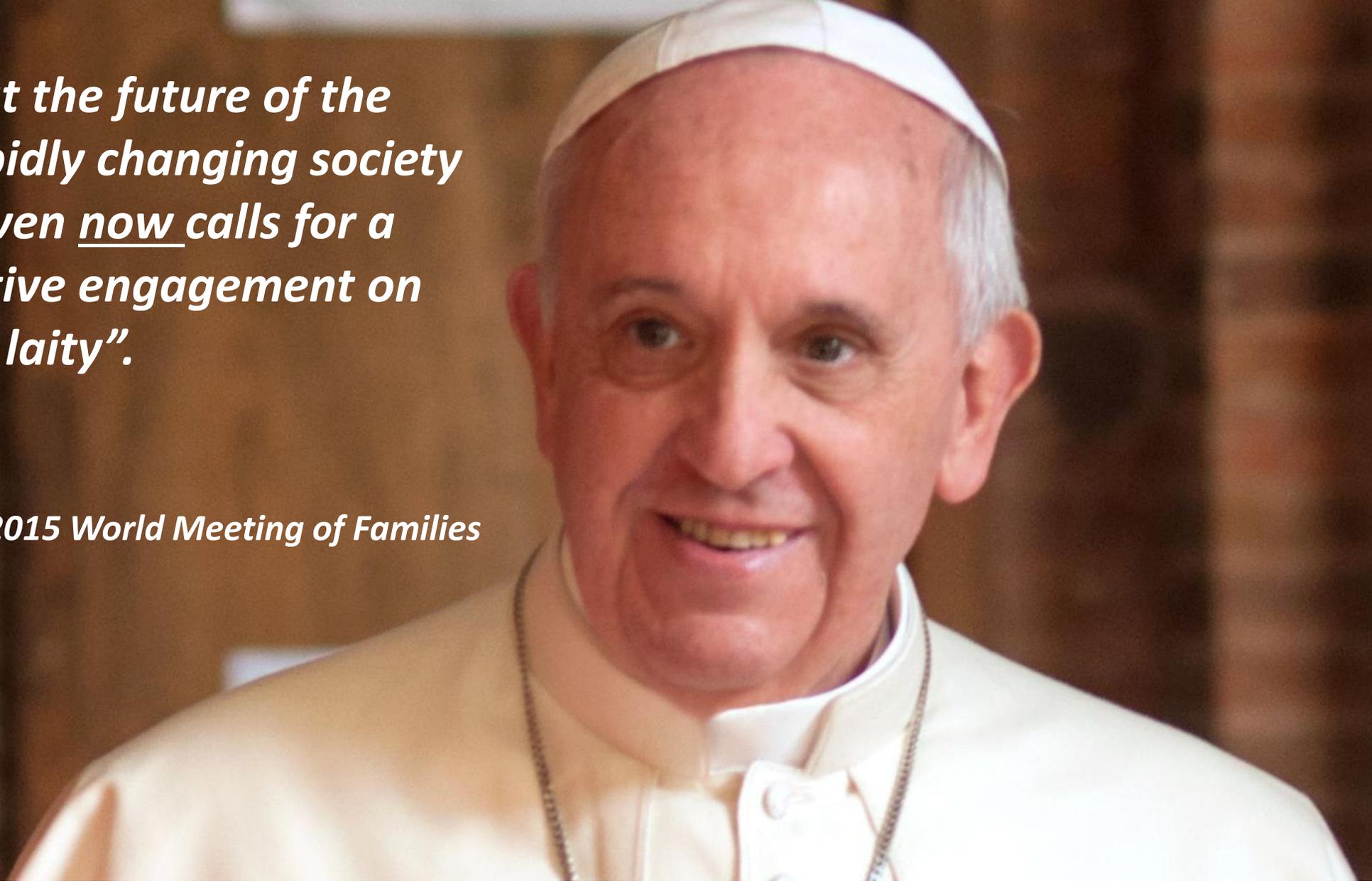
Jamie O'Hanlon  
Don Cerrone  
Kevin Poirier  
Paul LaFratta  
Gary Porter  
Paul Deschenes  
Paul Corriveau  
Dan Sharples  
Lorrie Kenney  
Don Houde  
David Forgiel  
Bob L'Homme  
Walter Landry  
John "Kerry" Vigorito  
Francis J. Leary, Jr.  
John McAfee

## Finance & Administration

Kevin Munley  
Normand Champagne  
Matthew Collins  
Mark Fisher  
Margaret Smith  
Anthony Karpinski  
Neil Dold  
Paul Danesi  
Rose Landry  
Elizabeth Porter

*“We know that the future of the Church in a rapidly changing society will call, and even now calls for a much more active engagement on the part of the laity”.*

*-Pope Francis, 2015 World Meeting of Families*



# **We need YOU**

**This is an interactive process, we NEED  
parishioner involvement**

**Assemblies will begin meeting in January  
2020...stay tuned for more information**

# What's in it for you?

- **Community**
- **Spiritually**



# What happens next?

Unification Team  
submits plan to  
Bishop



Presbyteral Council  
reviews plan



Parish  
Assembly



Bishop considers  
for approval

Creation of new  
parish & assembly  
work starts Jan. 1

Assembly work  
ongoing

# Common questions

Does this mean we're closing churches?

WE DON'T KNOW

# Common questions

## Does this mean we're closing churches?

### WE DON'T KNOW

The intent of the finance and administration assembly will be to study our situation across parishes and to then make recommendations re: a plan moving forward. Sometimes this means closing a building, sometimes it doesn't. This process usually takes no longer than 1 year and we will not have final answers until this critical work is completed. Regardless, the assembly will do everything in their power to be transparent about their findings.

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Given that Fr Rodney just recently arrived and adjusted mass schedules to ensure priests are available for every mass, we don't anticipate changing mass schedules.

# Common questions

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## What happens to the money that I give?

**FUNDS WILL GO INTO 1 CENTRAL BUDGET...**

and will be used to cover expenses across churches. This will give the new parish a more powerful negotiating position with suppliers. Decisions for major spending will need to be approved by The Finance Council which will be comprised of parishioners from all churches.

# Common questions

**How does this impact the school?**

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Our Principal is already an ex officio member of parish staff and will be part of the advisory board. School will not be affected.

# Common questions

**If I have comments/questions/feedback for the assemblies how do I contact them?**

**EACH ASSEMBLY WILL REVIEW AND ADDRESS QUESTIONS AS PART OF STANDARD MEETING AGENDAS**

# Other questions?



