

**Below is a letter shared by Fr. Sean Wilson, Pastor, to his current region: Petersburg Pastoral Region**

### **BEACONS OF LIGHT**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati publicly released the proposed Families of Parishes. The priests received the draft two days in advance. There is obviously much to digest and reflect upon, so we've summarized the most important information into these five things that you need to know:

1. These are proposed Families of Parishes. A number of drafts have already been developed and tweaked, so this draft is nearing the final edition. However, there will likely be some minor changes and tweaks over the coming weeks.
2. It is proposed that our four parishes will be joined with Holy Redeemer in New Bremen and Sacred Heart in McCartyville.
3. The draft accounts for three priests being assigned to serve our six parishes; one pastor and two parochial vicars. This means that we will have one less available priest. Currently, there are four priests—a pastor and parochial vicar at Petersburg, a pastor at Holy Redeemer, and a pastor at Sacred Heart.
4. Priests will have permission to celebrate three weekend Masses: one Saturday evening Vigil Mass and two Sunday Masses. For three priests, this means that there will be nine total weekend Masses. This will be a reduction from thirteen weekend Masses currently being celebrated (three at St. Joseph, two at Immaculate Conception, one at St. Lawrence, one at St. John, three at Holy Redeemer, and three at Sacred Heart). It will be the responsibility of our Family of Parishes to formulate the new Mass schedule.
5. The proposed neighboring Families are:
  - a. Holy Rosary in St. Mary's, St. Patrick in Glynwood, Immaculate Conception in Celina, and St. Teresa in Rockford (staffed by two diocesan priests)
  - b. Holy Angels in Sidney, St. Peter and Paul in Newport, and St. Michael in Fort Loramie (staffed by two diocesan priests)
  - c. St. Augustine in Minster, the five current Marion Local Catholic Parishes, and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Montezuma (staffed by three Precious Blood Priests)
  - d. St. Patrick in Bellefontaine, St. Mary of the Woods in Russell's Point, the four Champaign County (Urbana) Parishes, and the five Clark County (Springfield) Parishes (a total of 11 parishes staffed by four diocesan priests)

There will be two Town Hall Meetings this upcoming week. Please attend so that we can pray together, listen to questions and concerns, and discuss the next steps we will take together. One meeting will be on Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm at St. Joseph and the other will be on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am at Immaculate Conception.

You can go to the Archdiocesan website to comment on the draft of the Families of Parishes. The website is **CatholicAoC.org/Beacons**. It may be best to wait to comment until after our Town Halls so that the discussion can help to formulate your thoughts. I realize that the size of these Families is startling, just as going from 109 pastors to 60 will be a startling and eye-opening transition for our entire Archdiocese. Moving forward, our next steps will rely very much upon the prayer, good will, and involvement of *every* parishioner—staff and congregation, clergy and laity, old and young. I would ask for your continued prayers for me as I strive to serve the Lord to the best of my ability as His priest, and to serve the many souls entrusted to my care by our Archbishop.

