

Greetings in the Lord's Peace!

In recent decades, much has changed in the landscape and texture of the Catholic Church in Oswego. As we move forward in faith, our goal is to maintain a dynamic, healthy and vital Catholic community in Oswego. As parish communities we have observed and discussed our new situation and now is the time to move into the future.

On July 1, 2018, we will begin a year-long effort which will define the future of the Oswego Catholic Community. We want to be as transparent as possible and communicate openly and honestly with the community.

Based on what we know at this time, we believe that we can complete a plan of action for the future between now and July 1, 2019. Certainly, as we pray, plan, and prepare for our faith communities on-going presence we will meet challenges along the way. We believe that the Holy Spirit will guide our work and that our sense of unity will be strengthened by our mutual desire for a strong community and relationship in Jesus Christ. We will begin with these simple initial steps.

- By July 1, 2019, there will be one parish campus (yet to be determined) that will serve the entire Oswego Catholic Community as the parish home where all Weekend Masses will be celebrated. Some form of meaningful parish life will take place in each Church building as long as it remains available for the use of the Catholic community.
- The key issue facing us is the number of active Catholics engaged in parish life. In addition, realistic projections tell us that in the near future, there will be one priest who will serve the Oswego Catholic Community.
- Parish trustees and clergy will form the steering committee for these discussions. Parish Council and Parish Finance Committee members will receive orientation and be assigned roles in one of four task forces 1) Pastoral Life of the Parish; 2) Evangelization and Community Building; 3) Prayer and Worship; and, 4), with ample professional support, Parish Facilities and Real Estate.
- The Parish Facilities and Real Estate Committee is in the process of evaluating all current properties and will recommend a location that comprises all that is needed for the Oswego Catholic Community to carry on the life and ministry of Jesus, here, now and in the future.

- In the interim, each of our parishes will use the one patron along with its names (for example: The Catholic Community of St. Polycarp at the parish name.) (this is just an example). By July 1, 2019, the new patron identity will become the name of the our Catholic Community.

This letter is a brief introduction aid in keeping you informed. A more detailed letter will be available at your parish church. We ask that we keep each other in prayer. We ask that we avoid rushing to conclusions that would harm a prayerful, open process. We want you to know that the official source of accurate information will be the Trustee and Clergy group. Let's support each other. The whole family needs to make this journey together and rumors do much harm.

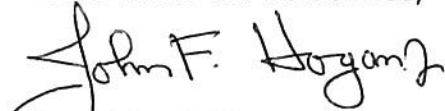
We hope that this information is useful. Most of you know that the trustees and clergy began their regular meetings in January and that the joint Pastoral and Finance Council have joined their efforts. We need this discussion to take place in the light of day.

The need for this dialogue in the Catholic Faith Family has been evident for many years. Accurate information will be shared when it becomes available. Ultimately the recommendations that arise will be presented to the Bishop for his prayer, discernment and action.

We ask for your prayers and support as we give thanks for all that has been and move into God's good future.

With every good wish, personal regard and promise of prayer, we remain,

Yours in the Lord's service,



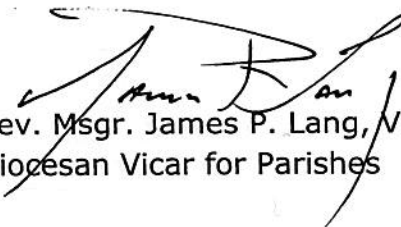
Rev. John F. Hogan, Jr.
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