

PARISH TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

The work of the Transition Team has begun in earnest. The Team consists of members of the parish staffs, parish councils and finance committees for both St. Barbara and St. Louise de Marillac, along with representatives from the St. Louise School Board.

Representing St. Barbara are Angela Lawler, Rich Slehofer, Karen Klein, John Bradshaw, Louise O'Connor and Marge Kearney. The St. Louise representatives include Marcy Fishback, Ken Bell, Joe Stastny, Jim Harrold, Carrie Sherman, Dan Graham, Emmett Keegan and Deacon Dave Brencic.

Bill Kanzer serves as the Team consultant from the archdiocese's Renew My Church department.

At the second meeting held June 12, Fr. Denis solicited members' vision for the new parish. "Without a vision, we don't know where we're going," Fr. Denis said.

Team members offered ideas for the parish vision, which ranged from a welcoming, vibrant parish to a parish that fosters intentional discipleship and service. Fr. Denis stressed that developing a vision will take time and will continue to be discussed.

Fr. Denis gave a brief synopsis of the priests' meeting held last week. Among other things, the priests discussed the Mass schedule for Sundays and weekdays at the two worship sites, along with the religious education program for the coming year, the makeup of the music ministry and how art and environment will be handled at the two churches. Fr. Denis noted that the priests agreed to have a regular clergy meeting that will include the deacons.

One of the top priorities for the Team is developing a parish calendar. Fr. Denis said he has been approached by a number of parish groups with requests for dates. Committees were formed to address the issue of the calendar along with other areas such as Evangelization, Communications, Finance, Liturgy and Hospitality.

Committee members are as follows: Calendar – Keegan and Lawler; Liturgy – Harrold and Bradshaw; Finance – Stastny, Slehofer, Sherman and Klein; Hospitality – Fishback and Sherman; Communications – Brencic and Keegan; and Evangelization – O'Connor, Kearney and Bell.

Committee members are to have initial discussions before the next Transitional Team meeting scheduled June 26.