

Dear parishioners,

As you pick up this parish bulletin, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's 'Families of Parishes' concept of reorganizing parishes will have approached the date for the implementation stage.

As I assume the pastorship of the five parishes under the NE7 banner (St. Anthony, St. Helen, Holy Angels, Immaculate Conception, and St. Mary), I want to thank Archbishop Schunrr for his confidence in me for leading and guiding this process. I would also like to thank the previous pastors in the parishes that are new to me – Fr. Francis Tandoh at St. Mary, and Fr. Greg Konerman at St. Anthony and Holy Angels parishes. Their selfless and dedicated ministry have set the stage for this new initiative. I am particularly grateful for their help in creating a smooth transition process. I would also like to thank the school principals and parish staff at each one of the parishes for the tasks they have already accomplished towards the transition and working collaboratively in the preparatory work. If this collaboration is any indication, we can expect this complex endeavor to be a holy and seamless one.



I want to extend my warmest and most sincere welcome to Fr. Len Wenke and Fr. Uriel Santos to our five parishes. I have known them previously and have met with them in preparation for our ministry together. They bring tremendous faith, skills, gifts, talents, and experience to our communities. Together, the three of us look forward to not only being partners in this new endeavor and also to work diligently alongside each other and you in the service of our parishes. We have already received e-mails, letters, and gestures of welcome from parishioners. We are very grateful. As time goes by, I am sure we will have the pleasure of meeting you personally and expressing our gratitude.

As you already know, changes have been made to the weekend and weekday Mass schedules prior to July 1, 2022. To a large extent the changes are guided by the realities of contemporary Catholicism. The new Mass schedule is included in this edition of the bulletin.

Every other aspect of parish life will be a matter of future discussions between the local parish leadership and all the five parishes. Frs. Len, Uriel, and I believe in the spirit of engagement with the local parish leadership in decision making. It is not our administrative style to engage in unilateral decisions and changes without discussion with the Parish Staff, the Parish Pastoral Councils, the Parish Commissions, and when possible, engagement with the larger parish community. Please be assured that all decisions in the future will be made in collaboration with the parish and Family of Parishes leadership teams.

May I take the opportunity to share a few important matters and dates with you:

- I will continue to reside at Immaculate Conception Parish. Frs. Len and Uriel will reside at St. Anthony.
- I will have a day off on Mondays, Fr. Len on Tuesdays, and Fr. Uriel on Fridays. Our contact information will soon be in the bulletins and available at the parish offices.
- We have planned a day of gathering for the parish staff on July 13, 2022. This will give us an opportunity to get to know each other and become familiar with the five parishes and their ministries.
- The inclusion of the Dayton Hispanic Community makes our Family of Parishes a unique and exciting endeavor. The needs of the Hispanic community are the same yet very different from their English-speaking counterparts. There are many challenges but even more opportunities for collaboration and enrichment of our parish life. I look forward to many multicultural and bilingual celebrations.
- Please mark your calendars for the "Beacons of Light" Town Hall gathering on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 7pm at Immaculate Conception Church (screens are helpful). This gathering will give us an opportunity to gather for the first time as a family and become familiar with the concept of the Families of Parishes. It will also introduce us to the larger principles guiding the process and the resources available for the process.
- We have planned a NE7 "Family of Parishes Retreat" on Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 9am-1pm at Immaculate Conception Church (again, screens are helpful). Dr. Vince Miller from the University of Dayton and I will facilitate this retreat. Using the concept of Synodality and the upcoming Synod convoked by Pope Francis, we will reflect on "journeying together" as God's holy people. May I please request you to make this gathering a priority.
- The Beacons of Light guidelines invite the pastor to initiate a leadership team for the Family of Parishes by September 2022. Please look forward to further communication on this new initiative.

Perhaps, the most important need of the hour is sincere prayer and goodwill. May I please request you to offer sincere prayers for the success of the Family of Parishes initiative and that we might work selflessly toward becoming a vibrant Catholic presence in Dayton.

In Christ,  
Fr. Satish Joseph  
Pastor