

The Beacons of Light initiative envisages a merger of multiple parishes into one canonical entity. This does not mean closure of parishes but an extinctive union. There are various models for this but the model that will apply to the Family of Parishes is, “merger.” This means that the five parishes within the Family of Parishes will unite to form a new canonical entity called, “Bread of Life/Pan de Vida Parish.” The Bread of Life/Pan de Vida Parish will have 5 parish campuses which will be equal in canonical status.

Over the last three years we have been gradually moving towards canonical unity and now it is time to take concrete steps. The Family of Parishes Pastoral Council minutes capture the process thus far and the approval of the process. Please take the time to read these approved minutes carefully. Please send any thought, question, clarifications, and concerns to satishjoseph@icparishdayton.org by April 5, 2026.

Fr. Satish Joseph, Pastor

Bread of Life/Pan de Vida Family of Parishes Pastoral Council Minutes – January 14, 2026 (approved on 3/11/26)

Members present: Fr. Satish Joseph, Fr. Len Wenke, Enrique Acuna, Therese Baker, Deb Bauer, Bryon Betsinger, Jim Boian, Betty Borgerding, Angie Buechele, Bonnie Doepker, Kurt Horner, Virginia Matis, Ed McGarry, Mel McWilliams, Mary Kate Sableski, Chrissy Walters, Denise Young.

Noting the progress that the Bread of Life Family of Parishes has made it time for the parishes to move forward toward extinctive union (a.k.a. merger) A & B unite to form C, only C remains (canon 121), one Canonical entity. Over the past 3 years, the Bread of Life Family of Parishes has made great progress in coming together and being the “Catholic Presence” in Dayton and Riverside.

- A common pastoral council represented by all the five parishes and the Hispanic Community is in place.
- A Beacons of Light Pathway team was established and in Jan 2026 expanded to include a member from each parish. This group is advisory to the pastor.
- Mass schedule has been adjusted to meet the number of priests, the number of people, and the liturgical and staff resources available.
- Bread of Life Parish leadership retreats and Parish retreats 2/3 years have facilitated a sense of common future and common mission.
- We have a bilingual common name that has been chosen after wide input.
- We share a common bilingual bulletin between the five parishes. A common website is in the works.
- A mission statement has been developed by the vision subcommittee that included a rep from each parish. The mission statement evolved out of how we experience each other’s parish communities.
- Important liturgies were either held in common (Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Feast of Guadalupe for Spanish, and Triduum, Confirmation, First Reconciliation for English), or in a way that facilitates the coming together of our communities for holydays and feast days.
- Love in Action Committee, commonly known as the Social Justice Committee, was established and has representatives from multiple parishes. The immigrants’ solidarity walk was organized by the committee.
- A Family of Parishes Picnic has replaced the individual picnics have been very successful.
- Baptism, Funeral, and Wedding programs are now coordinated in a way the facilitates easier organization.
- Wedding preparation mentoring program that helps prepare couples for marriages from the five parishes have been established.
- Our choirs have come together for larger liturgies, and they have been successful endeavors. Our choir directors meet to develop common repertoire for Advent and Lent.
- Resource sharing between schools has begun (ELL programs, Pre-school) All schools now use the same religious education books along with the parish religious education programs where possible.
- A common calendar for our three schools has been developed.
- We are one step away from all our school staff being on the same salary scale.
- Any religious education program can be accessed by any parishioners of our parishes.
- An Adult ELL program has been established in which members of all the parishes serve as facilitators.
- There is a Hispanic Committee for Common Spanish celebrations and a Rwandan Committee for Rwandan Masses and events.

In light of the progress that has been made, we would like to recommend to the Archbishop that we are ready to become one Canonical entity. In our Family of Parishes, we will have one canonical church with 5 parish locations. All parishes will come under the Bread of Life Pan de Vida entity.

The Beacons of Light Pathway Team has recommended that it is time to move forward for the Bread of Life Family of Parishes to request extinctive union. This means that we will become one Canonical entity with all five parishes maintaining equal status. All five will remain parishes within the entity.

Based on assessment of staffing, facilities (parking, deferred maintenance, gathering space, parish offices), space for common liturgies (Holy Week, Triduum, Confirmation), the presence of English, Hispanic, and Rwandan Communities (Masses for all three communities), the Beacons of Light Pathway Team unanimously, recommends that Immaculate Conception is the parochial church. Besides, archdiocesan events such as the Rite of Election and Deacons ordinations (when the group is large) is held at IC.

An open discussion followed.

Various questions were asked such as:

Are we ready to become a Canonical entity?

Does anything that needs to be done immediately?

Will we need to change email addresses?

Is there a timeline for the Canonical process?

Why are other places waiting?

Is there a timetable for the next priorities?

What about deferred maintenance in our parishes?

How will this message be shared with Parishioners?

What does this mean for our three schools?

If we remain parishes, people in the pew may not notice much difference?

Will we submit for extinctive union through the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council.

Will this info be presented to the individual parish councils?

These questions were answered with clarity. Fr. Satish said that the timing for extinctive union must be determined by each family of parish, and based on the progress we have made, he believes that it is the right time. As leader of the family of parishes, it is his responsibility to ensure that the process moves forward. Otherwise, we will be in the same place for years to come. It was intention to take the process forward.

He also iterated that the task of financial reorganization, of staff reorganization, and the task of addressing the deferred maintenance issues will follow once the extinctive union is approved. There are archdiocesan resources available for each one of these processes. While there is not a timeline for all these processes to be complete, the time taken to complete the process will vary for each family of parishes based on the number of parishes within the Family or the amount of work that is required.

As far as schools are concerned, since all three schools are running almost to capacity, we do not anticipate any changes. Moreover, the Tax ID for each school will remain independent due to State funding etc.

Fr. Satish explained that communicating this positively and explaining to people who have concerns about closure of parishes or change in Mass schedules (especially with the news that a priest will be assigned to our family of parishes) will help in allaying any fears and insecurities. He also explained that since the changes will be more in the culture of the parish rather than any noticeable change in the pews, it should be even less intimidating.

Fr. Satish reiterated that since the very beginning, we have built a culture of transparency and open discussion. It was important that everyone had the opportunity to ask any questions, seek clarification, and express opposition to the recommendation. If anyone had anything to say, this was time to do so.

No objections or reservations were expressed. No vote was taken as the effort was toward building consensus through open discussion.

Submitted by Deb Bauer

Save the date



CENTER FOR
PARISH VITALITY

Bread of Life / Pan de Vida Family of Parishes

Reflect Saturday May 2, 2026 8:30a-3pm (lunch provided)

Location: Immaculate Conception School Auditorium

All Parishioners from our Family of Parishes are invited to attend!

Pre-registration required.

Watch upcoming bulletins for more information.

