

My Dear Lakeshore Catholic Faith Community,

We have been publishing here for the last few weeks the data and information leading up to this. I know we live in a society where we want everything at the moment it is taking place and so often that means we sacrifice truth/facts from perception. As you will see we have been presented with a proposal that ultimately tells us that as a family we need to merge down to three Worship Sites. Ultimately one office and three Sites to accommodate the Family.

We have until the 15<sup>th</sup> of July to affirm the suggested plan, or to propose alternate ways to respond to the data presented. We then have until September 1<sup>st</sup> to put together the plan. On Pentecost 2025 is our end date for fulfilling the Plan.

My goal has always been to get as much input as we can from as many as possible. I believe we are all in this together so as a Family we need to be working on it. I remind you we have the Family Council, the Trustees and the clergy giving guidance to the final product. So, you have four ways to contribute. The Family Council in conjunction with the Parish Council has been working on this and will continue their advisement.

On Monday June 17 at 6:30pm in St. Mary of the Lake Gym and then on Wednesday June 19 at 6:30pm in Most Precious Blood Hall we will gather our ideas and thoughts a perspective overview and to enhance some idea gathering. Both Gatherings are the same, you only need attend one. They are not complaint sessions, they are an opportunity to help focus and contribute to the plan.

On Monday June 24, at St. Anthony's the Parish Council will meet to focus their ideas for a plan, and on Tuesday June 25, at St. Mary of the Lake the Parish Council will meet to focus their ideas for a plan, The Family Council and Clergy will meet following those meetings.

The pain and struggle is intense and we will endeavor to support one another through this process. But for now we need to work on the task before us, and remember God's love in all of this and how we can contribute. Pray for all in our Diocese right now.

Choicest Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Tim Koester". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Timothy Koester

PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION ON OTHER SIDE



### **Recommendations for Family #29**

1. Projected number of active priests for this family by 2030 = 2
2. Based upon scoring and metrics, it is recommended that the family rightsize and reshape this family evaluating the following recommendations:
  - a. St. Mary of the Lake is recommended to merge with St. Francis of Assisi.
  - b. The entire property of St. Mary of the Lake is to be sold.
  - c. St. Anthony in Farnham is recommended to merge with Most Precious Blood in Angola.
  - d. The entire property of St. Anthony is to be sold.

### **Justification**

1. St. Mary of the Lake parish has the lowest number of contributing families in this family of parishes and is located 4 minutes from St. Francis of Assisi.
2. This is a strategic move to rightsize this area of the Diocese for the projected number of priests to minister effectively in the future.
3. St. Anthony parish has a negative net operating balance, the lowest contribution level in this family and is located close to other parishes in this family –
  - a. Most Precious Blood, Angola – 7 min
  - b. Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Silver Creek – 9 min
4. There is potential in this family to merge St. Francis of Assisi, Most Precious Blood and St. John Paul II post chapter 11 to ease administrative responsibilities with the three sites remaining as worship sites.

