

**New Haven Catholic Transition Team
Nov 30, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Kickoff Meeting for the Municipal Model of the New Haven Parish – St. Joseph Church, Nov 30, 2022

Attending : All Available Pastors and their designated representatives (22 in attendance)

6:30 Adoration at St. Joseph Church

7:00 Meeting in the St. Joseph Church Hall

- I. Welcome and Prayer: Fr. Ryan welcomed all and opened in prayer.
- II. Introductions: Fr. Ryan asked all to introduce themselves and their parish.
- III. SWOTS: Everyone was given a binder with Strength-Weakness-Opportunity-Threat (SWOT) input from Archdiocese facilitated Spring 2022 feedback sessions conducted at each parish.
- IV. Becoming “One” Parish – The Process : Fr. Ryan acknowledged the amount of change each New Haven parish has dealt with in the last year. He reviewed the history of the 2014-2016 New Haven Pastoral Study and Plan, which led the Archdiocese to decide on a ‘municipal model’ for New Haven. There were multiple questions on how this evolved. He assured all that the course ahead was ours to navigate, but the destination is one parish for New Haven. Fr. Ryan cited his home town of Manchester, North Haven, and Waterbury as successful examples of Municipal Model implementation. The current Municipal Mass schedule was discussed. Concerns were some OLOG Masses were crowded. Also, Masses that were dropped eg. St Michael’s 4PM did not result in parishioners going to the Sunday Mass, but elsewhere, and some out of New Haven. Fr. Ryan restated the plan to look at the Mass schedule for needed adjustments in the New Year.
- V. FAQs: The FAQ list was briefly reviewed with an emphasis on the idea answers would evolve. Questions focused on church closures and finances. It became clear the Transition Team process will address many of the FAQ.
- VI. Transition Team to Implementation Team: Deacon Ernie reviewed the tasks of Transition to Implementation. The material was covered quickly due to time, and attendees requested a copy with the minutes.
- VII. Communications : The expectation for communications was discussed. First was the hope that team members communicate approved messages to be clear, open, and honest. There will be topics requiring confidentiality because they cannot be communicated yet. Quarterly letters and updates to the New Haven Catholic community will be the primary updates. For example Fr. Ryan suggested communications for this session be: “there was a lot of information provided and we are all learning a lot”
- VIII. Next Steps: Fr. Ryan and the pastors will compose a Christmas letter as the first official update. Monthly meetings are needed. Third Wednesdays were proposed.

8:30 The meeting ended with a chance for informal discussion.