

New Haven Catholic Implementation Team
April 26, 2023 Notes

NHC Implementation Team Update

Attending : NHC Implementation Team 29 members

7:00PM

Welcome & Opening Prayer

New Haven Catholic City-Wide Bulletin

Fr. Ryan asked for feedback on the city-wide bulletin:

- Very positive response: bilingual was appreciated, seeing events are a plus, overall good work
- The St. Martin prayer intercession list is not in the bulletin. Fr. advised that each church can determine the content for their page and that this can be added through the parish contact for St. Martin.
- It was suggested that some advertisers may have been dropped and creating additional as space where possible could increase revenue.

Review of March Meeting Key Points & Questions- Fr.Ryan

Financial Statement Review:

The consolidated NHC Financials were shared. This is a preview of the “amalgamate” picture.

The use of combined financials for the needs of individual churches was discussed. Anna asked about how church improvements would be done. A new Finance Council will be established with 2 members from each parish. This group will make recommendations based on the inventory of capital improvement projects by church and the priorities. Any restricted capital projects where money comes from a particular donor for a particular purpose will be adhered to.

There will be financial tracking of expenses and utilities by church. Fr. Ryan reminded the team that ‘property management’ organizations were being reviewed to evaluate all church properties and support all buildings.

In addition, combining into one parish will necessitate eventual changes to the functions of parish staff.

- Post meeting note: Fr. Ryan provided more detail on the "Other Income" column on the P&L statement enclosed in parentheses, indicating a negative, i.e., a loss?
 - The "Net Operating Income" column shows the profit or (loss) from regular day-to-day operations of the parishes. The 2022 negative numbers in the "Other Income" are mostly due to unrealized investment losses, i.e., losses in the value of the investments held by the parishes. These losses can/will turn around if/when the economy improves. We are already seeing small gains there. Annual depreciation expense is also included in this column. Contact Dan Dunphy (daniel.dunphy@stmarysnewhaven.org), for further questions.

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Canonical / Civil Picture

As an implementation team one of the key concepts to understand and communicate is the difference between a New Haven “church” and “parish”. Our churches are buildings with a dedicated name which will not change. Our parishes are “a gathering of the faithful” that will be “amalgamated”. The canon process will combine our 6 parishes St. Aedan & Brendan, St. Anthony, St. Martin De Porres, St. Michael, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and St. Stanislaus into a unified St. Mary parish “corporation” which will be renamed once civil and tax requirements are met.

Parish Governance Structure-

Fr. Ryan reviewed the leadership structure for our parish after July 1st. There will be 2 Trustees. There will be a single Finance Council with 2 representatives from each parish. There will be a single Parish Council with 2 representatives from each parish, that will assist the Moderator in directing the merger post July 1.

Joint Ministry Committee Update- Marianne Esposito

The Joint Ministry team has a representative from each parish; this is an extension of the January NHC report on ministries, programs, devotions, and events. To “live into our new reality”, all parishes are encouraged to continue the ministries that have sustained them through the years. New ways of growing in our faith and service together will be explored. In addition to bulletin church event listings, an event calendar will be shared. In addition, a list of the ministries at each church is being compiled for the NH Catholic website- so all can see the fullness of faith in our parish.

There was a question about general parish events versus specific group events. There will be many events open to all. There are also events which respect the tradition of particular groups eg. Young Adult groups, Moms, cultural Latino events

Request for Action- The Parish Name - Fr. Ryan

To prepare for the May 31st Meeting, team members are invited to work individually, or together, to nominate three potential names for the new parish.(Implementation Team- not a parish-wide activity).

The parish name could be:

1. the name of the Trinity, or
2. a name for Christ, invoked in the liturgy, or a mystery of his life, or
3. the name of the Holy Spirit, or
4. a name for Mary, invoked under a title for her used in the liturgy, or
5. the name of a holy angel, or
6. the name of a canonized saint, as it appears in the Roman martyrology
7. the name of a blessed provided the Apostolic See has given its permission.
8. the name cannot be a name of one of the currently existing parishes. It must be new.

Please prepare to support your nomination with reasons as to why you chose the name.

Next Meeting

May 31, 2023 St. Joseph Church 7:00PM

Planned topics: The Parish Name , Communications Committee Report

Future Schedule: June 28th

4/26/23 mme