

**New Haven Catholic Implementation Team
May 31, 2023 Notes**

NHC Implementation Team Update

Attending : NHC Implementation Team

Tally of Parish Name Suggestions

As everyone entered the meeting, all suggestions for the parish names were posted.

7:10PM

Welcome & Opening Prayer- Fr. Ryan

New Haven Catholic – How is it going in your parish?

Fr. Ryan asked for feedback on what was happening in each parish:

Nilsa Padilla-Dechalus spoke for St Anthony: Many parishioners are experienced with a merge, and that creates more serenity.

Ken Maltese spoke for Sts. Aedan & Brendan: It was difficult not having a dedicated priest/pastor at first. Deacon Marty has been a strong helper for the parish. The Coffee Hour after Mass is a key way to communicate. Ken expressed the need to have a website link to communicate parish info & activities. Cindy DeCarlo added that joining the New Haven Catholic community was the first choice for the people of Sts. Aedan & Brendan parish.

Frank Gargano spoke for St. Michael: We sold our surrounding properties to sustain our church. It was hard to lose our Saturday Vigil Mass because we lost parishioners who did not come on Sunday, and some who stopped coming altogether. With Fr. Roy's retirement, the question of "what priest" creates uncertainty. Deacon Ernie has helped the parish before and is a familiar & good supporter. Anna Festa added that we received a compliment from Hamden parishioners who said "New Haven is doing it right."

Agnes Jackson spoke for St. Martin de Porres: Because of questions of closing, there was a Town Hall meeting to communicate NHC plans. Mass attendance is stable. Parish outreach has returned to pre-pandemic; the breakfast ministry is doing well.

Kasia (verify) spoke for St. Stanislaus: A few more have been noticed at Masses. Parishioners at the Polish Mass on Sunday would like an earlier time.

David Crotta spoke for St. Mary : All that have spoken to Davis expressed great enthusiasm at having all New Haven Churches together. David himself, and his wife/family have attended various churches with very positive outcomes.

Fr. Ryan thanked all for the open and honest feedback on how things were going.

NHC Communications- Bethany Ippolito

Bethany, the Interim NHC Director of Communications, presented the communications update.

Key planning aspects are:

- 46,000 in New Haven identify as Catholic
- Median age of Catholics in New Haven is 49
- 81% of all Catholic adults go to YouTube for Catholic content

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Summary of NHC Communications plans

- Email: platform under review
- Website : structure under development
- Facebook: combine parish accounts
- Twitter: TBD
- Instagram: Continue
- MyParish App: TBD
- YouTube: TBD
- Print: Continue as Needed

Bethany requests communications via email at info@newhavencatholic.org

A form was distributed to collect input for our website:

Is it possible to schedule Masses online?	St. Michael
Is it possible to reach out to the youth to ascertain areas of their interest?	St. Martin de Porres
English, Polish, and Spanish options on New Haven Catholic website?	OLG
Currently [St. Anthony] has no online presence. Can we increase that?	St. Anthony
Put a link for New Haven Catholic on each individual Parish website?	Sts. Aedan and Brendan

The Parish Name - Fr. Ryan

Fr. Ryan asked for the tally information on parish name suggestions. The top three were

- All Saints (11)
- Blessed Michael McGivney(11)
- All Souls (6)

In addition, multiple votes were placed for St. John Paul II (4), St. Teresa of Calcutta (3), St. Cecelia (2), Divine Mercy(2), Teresa of Jesus(2), St. Frances Cabrini (2), and Christ the King(2).

Single recommendations were : St. Mary Star of the Sea, St. Dominic & Vincent, St. John Henty Newman, Holy Spirit, Our Lady of the Americas, St. Michael, St. Agnes, St. James, St. Martha, St. Mary

Fr. Ryan will take the top 3 names for the letter to the Archbishop, and will communicate this in the bulletin on Trinity Sunday.

Next Steps - Fr. Ryan

Fr. Ryan discussed the next steps in the NHC process:

- A letter would be sent to the Archbishop to request the merge.
- A Decree of the Merger would be communicated- published in the bulletin and read at Masses (Maybe Corpus Christi Sunday)
- 10 day waiting period for any issues & time to appropriately respond (this delays July 1)
- We can and will work into the summer to respond to open issues if necessary.

Next Meeting

June 28, 2023 St. Joseph Church 7:00PM

6/5/23 mme