

St. Alfred, Taylor  
St. Constance, Taylor  
Our Lady of the Angels, Taylor  
St. Andre Bessette, Ecorse  
St. Frances Cabrini, Allen Park  
St. Mary Magdalen, Melvindale



## Quo Vadis Domine Family of Parishes Shepherd's Synodal Report *On the Way Together*

*"To belong to a people walking, journeying through history together with our Lord, who walks among us!  
We are not alone; we do not walk alone. We are part of the one flock of Christ that walks together."  
– Pope Francis*

As was shared with parishes in the Quo Vadis Domine Family during our October & January Listening Sessions, reflected upon in November and prayed about during December, changes are necessary to better prepare for the future reality of less priests and less people in our Family of Parishes.

After careful consideration of the data, which tell a sobering tale, both with people in the pews and priests in the pulpits, and with much prayer, critical thinking, and consideration of the primary mission of the Church, it has become a necessity in order to keep our focus on the mission of the Church, salvation of souls, for the following changes to occur:

### **Changes to Quo Vadis Domine Parish Offices**

Considering the anticipated decrease in clergy and to effectively pastor our Family of Parishes as a team of priests, an equal decrease in the weekday expectations and responsibilities required of them also needs to occur to avoid burnout, dissolution, and ineffectiveness. Since we have the technology to properly handle most of the parish business regardless of location and given the fact that there is limited 'foot traffic' among our parish offices, the following changes will occur:

#### **St. Constance, St. Alfred, and St. Mary Magdalen**

Office hours will only be on Saturday & Sunday: 9:00am – 2:00pm  
Note: there will no longer be office hours during the week at these parishes

***All changes will begin Palm Sunday weekend (April 12-13)***

With a more intentional focus on the need for centralization of the pastoral ministry and ‘business’ of the Church, the main office for the four parishes within the Quo Vadis Domine Family will be renamed the **Mission Center Office** and located at the St. Frances Cabrini campus. All business and pastoral care will be conducted out of this location for each parish. During the weekend hours at each location, the office personnel will be able to assist with any paperwork or transactional business that is needed.

**Mission Center Office Hours** (located at St. Frances Cabrini)

Monday – Friday	9:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday	9:00am – 3:00pm
Sunday	9:00am – 1:30pm

Since all parishes are within 5 miles of St. Frances Cabrini, this is a manageable and fair shift in how we conduct the ‘business’ of parish life while respecting the limited availability of the clergy and pastoral staff members. It will no doubt require patience and adjustment to how ‘we have always done it’. Also, with parish offices now open on the weekends, when most people are free (Saturday) or when attending Mass (Sunday), scheduling your parish business accordingly should be seen as an added convenience.

**Clarifications:**

- All parish business during the week will be conducted through the newly named **Mission Center Office** located at St. Frances Cabrini.
- With the modern advancements of technology, phone calls from each parish that occur Monday – Friday and after business hours, will be routed to the offices of the **Mission Center** (located at St. Frances Cabrini.) All your phone calls will still be answered by the pastoral staff of the Family.
- Each parish will continue to maintain its own phone number, website, and email addresses.
- The ability to utilize the individual parish offices for meetings/gatherings/ministry during the week will still occur with keyless entry into the buildings.
- To be clear, the individual parish offices are not closing but rather, experiencing a shift in purpose, utilization, and business hours. All regular parish transactions will still occur during weekend hours.
- All changes will begin Palm Sunday weekend (April 12-13)

## Reflection:

“In the process of renewal and restructuring, the Parish has to avoid the risk of falling into an excessive and bureaucratic organization of events and an offering of services that do not express the dynamic of evangelization, but rather the criterion of self-preservation.”

- Pastoral Conversion of the Parish to Evangelization #34

## Changes to the Mass Schedule

The Eucharistic liturgy (Mass) presents to the people of God, ‘the source and summit’ of our faith, and holds pride of place within the schedule and priorities for the clergy. All our ministries, groups, committees, councils, and organizations find their meaning in the manifestation of the celebration of the Eucharist.

To maintain the dignity the Eucharist rightly deserves, a change in our Mass schedule must occur. Parish priests are afforded four weeks of vacation/retreat each year (per the fiscal calendar: July – July). That means there are 16 weekends where we have one less priest to maintain our present schedule. This new schedule also anticipates the future reduction of priests to serve our parishes and assists with determining the best use of our increasingly limited availability.

### Daily Mass | Weekday Masses will only be celebrated at St. Frances Cabrini

- 8:30am Monday – Friday

### During the liturgical seasons of Advent & Lent, the *additional* weekday schedule will occur:

- 9:00am Monday | Tuesday at St. Mary Magdalen
- 9:00am Wednesday | Friday at St. Alfred

### Weekend:

#### Saturday

- Confession | 3:00pm St. Frances Cabrini
- Mass | 4:30pm St. Frances Cabrini

#### Sunday

- 8:00am St. Frances Cabrini
- 9:30am St. Alfred (*English*)
- 10:00am St. Frances Cabrini
- 10:30am St. Mary Magdalen
- 11:00am St. Constance
- 12:30pm St. Frances Cabrini
- 12:30pm St. Alfred (*Spanish*)

**All changes will begin Palm Sunday weekend (April 12-13)**

Since Sunday is the ‘day unto the Lord’, the new weekend schedule keeps a Sunday Mass at each parish. Acknowledging that having the option for both a Saturday and Sunday Mass at each parish would be preferred, we can only offer that which we can realistically maintain. The present weekend schedule is unsustainable and is negatively affecting the ability for priests to be ‘fully present’ to the people of God. The lone Saturday (anticipated Sunday) Mass incorporates two realities:

1. The increased number of Funerals, Memorial Masses, Weddings, Quinceañeras and Baptisms that are regularly scheduled on Saturday. It is becoming more common to celebrate one, two, or three of the above on any given Saturday.
2. St. Frances Cabrini is centrally located within our Family of Parishes and has a seating capacity of 1,200. Each of our other parishes can only accommodate half that number and are not centrally located.

Our new weekday schedule is reflective of the growing number of funerals, expectations for presence in our school and limited availability of priests throughout the week regarding days off, vacations, retreats and illness.

#### **Clarifications:**

Every parish experiences a change from their present weekend Mass schedule. This change reflects a reduction of 3 masses from the present weekend schedule and allows for three priests to celebrate all the Masses at all four parishes. Reminder, we are also anticipating the eventual addition of St. Andre Bessette and Our Lady of the Angels parishes to our pastoral oversight at some point in the near future. This also pertains to the weekday schedule of masses.

#### **Reflection:**

*“The pastoral conversion of the Parish community, in terms of mission, takes shape and finds expression in a gradual process of a renewal of structures; consequently, different forms of shared pastoral care emerge, as well as forms of participation in it that involve the entire People of God.”*  
– Pastoral Conversion of the Parish to Evangelization #42

## **Changes to Quo Vadis Domine Pastoral Staff**

As was communicated at our Listening Sessions in October & January, most of our pastoral staff will transition from individual parish employees to Quo Vadis Domine Family employees. As we presently do with our Facilities Manager, Mission Support Director, Discipleship Formation Director (Religious Education program) and OCIA, all four parishes will now ‘employ’ and ‘contribute’ to these positions and programs. These changes are a continuation of that practice which has served us well, both with our individual parish finances and effective use of personnel for the future reality of parish life. With our pastoral staff members housed under one roof, our priests and pastoral ministers will more effectively minister to the people of our parishes.

### **Director of Worship: Mr. Armando Bravo**

Armando is a parishioner at St. Mary Magdalen and has held positions in several parishes for over twenty years. Several of his roles have been as a pastoral associate, and most recently as the Director of Discipleship Formation. This new position will oversee and direct the ministers and ministries of the four parishes within our Family. This new role will be of significant aid to the clergy in their ability to offer quality, visible, and theologically appropriate ministry to the people of our Family. The Director of Worship will provide for the ministry of the Church in 'like fashion' as to what the Mission Support Director provides the Church in the areas of finances, administration, and personnel matters.

### **Director of Discipleship Formation: Mrs. Miranda Garcia**

Miranda is a life long parishioner at St. Andre Bessette. For the past several years, she has served as the Religious Education Director for the parish. The Director of this new role oversees all aspects of discipleship formation, with special emphasis on discipleship pathways; gives direction and vision for catechesis in the parish within the age groups (children, youth, young adults) and engages parents as the primary educators of their children. The Director of Discipleship Formation oversees all sacramental preparation and programming. Two locations will provide education for our children at St. Frances Cabrini and St. Andre Bessette.

### **Director of Engagement: Mrs. Therese Tardiff**

Therese has been a parish employee of St. Frances Cabrini for the past thirty-one years and is a lifelong parishioner at Cabrini. She has held positions in youth ministry, Christian service, and most recently as Director of Outreach. The Director of Engagement assists parishioners by equipping them for the service of the Gospel; oversees programs that evangelizes the evangelizers using the process of encounter, grow, witness. There will be a special focus on effective and responsive communication to all those engaged with or seeking engagement with the Church, primarily through the Mission Center. This office will also coordinate and act as a resource for our many outreach programs.

### **Mission Support Director: TBD**

### **Mission Support Manager (Finances/Administration): Ms. Ana Juarez**

Ana has been serving the parish of St. Alfred for the past 10 years as the Business Manager, as well as being a long-time member of the parish community. The Mission Support Manager of Finance is the primary point of contact for all finance related matters for our four parishes and school. The position is primarily responsible for the compiling and distribution of financial reports to department heads, the enforcement of proper budgeting and financial protocols, and managing all business matters for the parishes within the Family.

## **Mission Support Manager (Communication/Human Resources): Mrs. Jennifer Schuman**

Jennifer has been an Administrative Assistant for the past four years at St. Frances Cabrini and is an active member of the parish and school. The Mission Support Manager of HR & Communications is primarily responsible for the processing and ensuring human resources compliance across the Family of Parishes (wage and benefits, contracts, benefits, safe environments, etc.). Additionally, she will be primarily responsible for the composition and coordination of FOP modes of communication (parish websites, social media, bulletin, email, widescale communication, graphic design, and Mass announcements).

## **Mission Center Secretary: Mrs. Michelle Ramos-Flores**

Michelle is a parishioner at St. Alfred parish and for the past two years has served as the secretary at St. Alfred. She will continue in this role as the primary Mission Center Secretary located at St. Frances Cabrini. Because many of our parishes have a large Spanish speaking community, we have been intentional in securing as many bi-lingual staff as possible. Michelle helps to fulfill that goal, in addition to her many other gifts.

## **The Path Forward**

Changes can be difficult and disorienting. I pray you understand the reasons why these changes are necessary for our Family to be prepared for the coming reality of less priests and people. It is our intention to make our family, mission-ready, for the challenges ahead. Please know of our prayers and support for you as we travel this new road together. Please also know that our Lord is with us every step of the way. If we keep our eyes fixed on Him, there is no path that will lead us astray.

Through the intercession of our saints who inspire us to become ‘joy-filled’ missionary disciples, Our Lady of the Angels, St. Mary Magdalen, St. Andre Bessette, St. Constance, St. Alfred and St. Frances Cabrini, may we learn from their faithfulness and dedication to Christ and His holy Church. As invoked in the *No Second Tunic* Pastoral Note from Archbishop Vigneron, we must always remember, ‘Be not afraid, the Lord is with us.’

Always in the hope of the Risen Lord,

Fr. Tim Birney - Fr. Ryan Walters - Fr. Cornelius Okeke - Fr. Grayson Heenan  
Fr. Johnson Pradeep, SAC - Fr. Dariusz Strzalkowski

***All changes will begin Palm Sunday weekend (April 12-13)***