

UPDATE FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM

Our meetings with parishioners from Sacred Heart and Holy Cross continue, most recently occurring at Holy Trinity on Tuesday, May 3rd. Our **next meeting** will be Tuesday, May 17th, at Holy Cross.

WE HAVE A NAME FOR OUR FAMILY!

One of the Transition Team's initial tasks was to come up with a name for our Family. It is important to remember that our "family grouping" will be identified with its own name, **HOWEVER**, we will continue to keep the uniqueness and individuality of our parishes, **INCLUDING OUR PARISH NAMES.**

Your Transition Team adhered to the following guidelines and policies of the Diocese in choosing a name for our Family:

- The name cannot replicate the canonical (existing) title of any of the parishes in the family (e.g., the St. Peter Family of Parishes). Nor should it be a hyphenated name that groups the names of the parishes in the family (e.g., the St. Peter – Sacred Heart – St. Michael Family of Parishes).
- It is preferable that the name of the family not have a religious designation but, rather, refer to the geographic region or area where the parishes in the family are situated (e.g., the Chatham Family of Parishes, the Norfolk Family of Parishes, the West London Family of Parishes, etc.)

After much discussion and thoughtful deliberation, the Team chose a name and submitted it to Bishop Fabbro for approval. After receiving approval, we can now announce that the name for our Family of Parishes is:

"NORTH OXFORD CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES"

The reasoning behind the choice is two-fold:

- 1. GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION** (as per policy):
 - The other parish in Oxford, located in the southern part of the County, is already 'familied' into another group. Our three parishes are located in the northern half of Oxford County.
- 2. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:**
 - The first Catholic Church in Oxford County (St. Augustine) was built in 1838 in Beachville (which at that time was in North Oxford Township). St. Augustine was only the eighth Catholic Church built in what was then, the entire 'Province of Upper Canada'.
 - This Church served the faithful from the surrounding area including Woodstock, Ingersoll, the Townships of North Oxford, East Oxford, West Oxford, East Nissouri, East

Zorra and Blandford, Blenheim. Our Family will include members from all these areas as our parishes include these same geographical boundaries.

- Catholics from these areas shared one priest and worked together as one group building the Catholic Faith. This is similar to the FAMILY of PARISHES model: we will become part of a larger faith family benefitting from and working with our family members, dedicated to advancing our mission, to share Christ with those around us, and to grow our parishes!

As always, we ask for your prayers to help our transition into a Family of Parishes: may the Holy Spirit guide us along the way.

WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US?

At any point throughout this process, you may share your thoughts, suggestions and questions, by contacting your Transition Team using the following email address:

northoxfordtransitionteam@dol.ca

PLEASE NOTE: In fairness to all, we will not share decisions or recommendations of the Transition Team until they have been reported to all parishes through parish bulletins and on websites.