

Welcoming Change...

To live is to change and to keep growing is to change often. However, for most of us change is often something we prefer to avoid. The way things appear to be working for us and feels so comfortable and predictable that we seldom consider even attempting to do anything differently. Yet when we are willing to let go—even a little bit—of how things are now—we discover new relationships, opportunities, and growth.

Catholics in the Cincinnati Archdiocese are being invited to do just that, to move beyond their known church communities and join other parishes in forming a new and more vibrant family of faith—to do together what they could have not done alone. This is no easy task, but grounded in prayer and even a small willingness to try, this can happen. There will be some successes and missteps on the way and it won't happen overnight, but it is possible and can even be exciting.

Think of something you never thought you wanted to do—but reluctantly did—and ultimately were grateful you had made that choice. I remember the summer in college when I was working in a downtown clothing store. It was July and we were beginning to sell coats for the winter. We had a quota of coats to sell each week and I hadn't sold even one. I complained to my dad that I simply couldn't do it and he gave me advice I didn't want to hear. "Tell your boss you'll stay longer at no extra pay until you learn to do it." I balked

at the idea but tried it anyway and discovered I could meet my quota and be able to help people get set for the winter by buying coats when prices were lower. I learned something new about myself and found I was helping people in the process. This is not at all like parishes coming together, but it is an example of trying something I initially didn't want to do and experiencing a positive outcome.

Declining numbers of priests, birth rates and Mass attendance; underutilized buildings, many in need of repair; and priests stretched to the limit are some of the things that led Archbishop Schnurr to initiate the process called Beacons of Light to enable parishes to better utilize resources share the good news and become the vibrant communities of faith parishioners need them to be.

This is a multi-year process, but first steps are beginning now as families of parishes have been announced. In the coming months we will begin meeting with and learning more about the parishes in our family. Pastors for the new families will be assigned in July.

It's new and scary and some of us may be reluctant to get involved, but if we are willing to be open God will be with us every step of the way and great things can happen.
~~ Angela Anno

Our New Family:

St. Leo, saint-leo.org

Holy Family, Price Hill holyfamilycincinnati.org

St. Boniface, Northside, stbonifacecincinnati.com

St. Joseph, downtown Cincinnati stjosephcincinnati.org

Little Flower. Mt. Airy www.littleflower-church.org



FOOD PANTRY IS BACK TO ALLOWING CLIENTS IN

Our Food Pantry Board and Volunteers decided to open up the pantry to allowing clients back in on December 1st! It has been a smooth and easy transition, all the clients appreciate not having to stand in the cold and are able to pick out the items that are needed for their families. We ask that all people entering the building to wear a mask, and there is only a maximum of 10 people in at a time. If you are able, please try to leave your children at home. For the most up to date rules/regulations please call the office at 513.921.1044 or check our website www.saint-leo.org/works-of-mercy

