

Come Together:

Dear Members of Holy Rosary Parish:

Over the last while, you have probably seen or heard about the new initiative in the parish called “Come Together:”. Although not all of the details of this project have been finalized, I am taking this opportunity to explain to you its objective and how it will work.

The objective of the undertaking is to do two things: (1) build up the relationships among members and groups within the parish which may have deteriorated during the Covid 19 crisis; and (2) reach out to Catholics in Thorold whose needs are not being properly met at this time.

The initiative will seek to build up relationships within our community through a series of events sponsored by the parish and others organized by groups associated with it. The former will be specifically identified as “Parish Events” while the latter will be promoted as an event sponsored by the particular parish group (Catholic Women’s League; Knights of Columbus etc.). All revenues earned and expenses incurred from the first category of events will go directly to the parish. Those revenues and expenses from the second category will go to the parish organization. Effective immediately, any parish group holding an event which will generate revenue (including a donation box) will be charged \$200 per day for the use of the Parish Hall or \$100 per day for the use of the parking lot. This is to help pay for the expenses of maintaining the Parish Hall until it is sold.

These events will involve all aspect of parish life. Some will be spiritual (Meditative Rosary etc.), while others will be educational (Faith Formation Sessions etc.), social (Coffee Sundays etc.), liturgical (Special Masses etc.) as well as fundraising (Garage Sales). It is hoped different groups within the parish will organize and support these events.

The initiative will seek to reach out to Catholics in Thorold whose needs are not being met by first consulting with the Pastoral Council and the Parish. Are there better ways to make our senior citizens, the homebound, families with young children and newly married couples feel more included in the parish? There is a growing number of individuals moving to Thorold from outside the Niagara Region who belong to different ethnic groups. Are there better ways to make them feel more welcome? Are there ways to reach out to Catholics who no longer come to Mass? I hope to generate some ideas about how we can better serve the need of the parish and then set priorities so efforts will be concentrated on a few projects which have the best chance of success. This initiative will attempt to deal with not just immediate problems but those of the future. The timeframe being used is longer term. What kind of parish do we want Holy Rosary to be in ten or twenty years?

This undertaking is ambitious and as I have mentioned not all the details have not been determined. There will be setbacks and disappointments along the way. It will only work if individuals and groups in the parish participate in it. I am asking for your ideas and support. If you have any comments or questions about this initiative, please talk to me about them. I hope to start moving on this project in September 2022.

Father Michael Basque