

Summary of Holy Spirit Family of Parishes 5/6/25 Town Hall Meeting
Canonical Parish Modification Option

Summary Document

Town Hall Meeting held at St. Benedict the Moor

Presenter: Father Jason Williams, Chancellor and Liturgical
Celebrations of the Archbishop

41 attendees, representing all four parishes

Two questions were posed:

- 1) In your mind, which type of modification of parishes is best suited to our family of parishes?
- 2) Please share your thoughts as to why you chose this modification, as the best fit for our family of parishes.

Summary of Results

41 parishioners attended the session

28 people provided a response to the above-questions

13 people did not return completed questions (2 people turned in blank sheets; 1 person said more time was required to review; 11 people did not turn in sheets).

2 of the 28 respondents preferred an amalgamation as preferred option

1 person of the 28 respondents wanted "no change"; "stay as we are".

Of the 28 responses:

25 preferred a merger, as the preferred modification option

Examples of comments and rationale for "merger" modification as preference:

- Merger viewed as a "preferred pastoral approach". Noted that any ease of administration was not as important.
- Merger ensures each of current parish' attributes are valued and respected.
- We have experience with "mergers", as we have done this before (Our Lady of Mercy and Corpus Christi, became Our Lady of Grace).
- Past experience with merger has gone well.
- A number of respondents specifically noted that it was important to retain church sites to facilitate evangelization of all of the communities within our large geographic region; Retaining each church site, allows the aged seniors within the current parishes to worship at their nearest church.
- Retaining church sites allows us to retain the history of each current parish.
- Merger would support a centralization of finances, tax status, where appropriate, etc.
- A new parish identity demonstrates our commitment to future and bringing faith to others within the communities within our geographic region.
- Merger allows a new identity, and does not put a single current parish above the others.
- Merger creates a shared or common identity.

- Merger supports a commitment to discipleship
- Concern expressed that some individuals will not go along with the consensus
- Merger is more unifying; Allows us to come together around a common idea.
- Merger is "pastorally easier"; Empowers all of us to have ownership of the mission, identity of our one canonical parish.
- There was a consensus from two breakout teams that a request be made for the archdiocese to provide financial assessment to help us figure out how best to address financial matters, after a merger.
- Merger allows us to "just start anew"/"start from scratch".
- There was a concern that merger best ensured, no one existing parish was viewed as being excluded or less important than another.
- Merger would ensure "no one was left out".

Amalgamation as Preferred Modification Option:

- 1 person thought that it would result in one parish identity and allow other parishes to exist. Also indicated they may have misunderstood.
- 1 person indicated that amalgamation was preferred. Stated that it was an important consideration be given to protect the history of Black Catholics, which was not given importance in past processes, similar to BOL.