

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness... to give you a future full of hope.” Jeremiah 29:11*



April 25, 2019

*He is Risen!*

Dear Parishioners of St. Dominic, St. Francis of Assisi, St. John of God, St. Thomas Moore, St. Patrick and St. Louis de France.

I write today, in these early days of our Easter season, as a follow up from my March 15th letter to you, regarding the creation of two groups of three *linked* parishes to be:

1. St. Dominic, St. Francis, and St. John of God; and
2. St. Thomas More, St. Patrick, and St. Louis de France

As a reminder, a *linked model* means that the three parishes in each group will remain independent at this time. However, in this new paradigm, each linked model of three parishes will operate with one central administration office and an appropriate staffing structure that will be put in place to 1) manage the administration – bookkeeping, operations, and facilities maintenance of the three campuses, and 2) provide leadership for all faith formation and evangelization programs along with coordination of parish ministries. This will allow our priests to be priests – freeing the clergy from the day-to-day burdens of administration.

Next steps: The six strategic ministry planning teams are working together to shape their goals, as two *linked parish models* and to creatively design goals to promote greater engagement of our youth and their families.

The Clergy: On June 26, 2019, Rev. Philip N. Hamel will be assigned as pastor and Rev. Brian E. Albino will be assigned as Parochial Vicar, to serve the good people of what will be three *linked* parishes of **St. Dominic, St. Francis, and St. John of God.**

Rev. David A. Costa will be assigned as pastor to serve the good people of what will be three *linked* parishes of **St. Thomas More, St. Patrick, and St. Louis de France.**

We will optimize these next several months to prepare for this transition by completing the strategic plan, and in July these two tri-parish communities will begin to take steps to move from planning to implementation.

This transformation in our Church will only happen if we are all in this together, building on our strong parish traditions and consolidating our human and financial resources. Let us build the “future full of hope” that Jeremiah foretold – in Somerset, in Swansea and beyond!

May God bless us on this journey of *Rebuilding in Faith and Hope!*

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.  
Bishop of Fall River

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