

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING OUR MERGER

- 1. Why are we considering a merger now?** Father Paul has been advised by the Archdiocese since August 2019 to consider a merger, based on the financial situation of both parishes in the last 5 years. The Parish and Finance Councils began discussing this idea more seriously in February 2020. The Coronavirus Pandemic has made the situation much more urgent. The Parish Staff and Councils have spent too much time in recent years focusing on paying the bills and not focusing on the mission. We need to stabilize the financial situation for the sake of our mission.
- 2. What is the difference between a collaborative and a merger?** Our two parishes have been a collaborative since 2014. Each parish has continued to keep its individual identity for canonical and financial purposes while they share resources such as personnel and come together for liturgies and some programs. In a merger, the two parishes are united into one new Parish.
- 3. What will be the impact of the merger on the Capital Campaigns of 2019?** The St Joseph Campaign raised nearly \$600,000 in pledges for the structural repair of the Parish Social Center building. That repair has already begun in June of this year. The St Francis Campaign raised nearly \$350,000 in pledges for 3 projects: upper church restroom (to be addressed after the St. Joseph repair is completed), and 2 upgrades to the Parish Center that will be put on hold until the proposed merger process is complete.
- 4. How will the merger reduce costs and raise income?** The two parishes have 8 buildings combined: 2 churches, 2 rectories, 2 convents, and 2 parish centers. We will keep both churches open, and then look at consolidating our programs and buildings so that some of our buildings could potentially be rented for steady income. We would also save approximately \$40,000 annually in utilities, maintenance and other operating costs by closing one rectory and one parish center and streamlining parish programs.
- 5. How does the proposed merger impact St. Joseph School?** The merger of the two parishes will have very little impact on the School. The School's finances and operations are mostly independent from the Parish and the School has received very little financial support from the Parish in recent years. Nevertheless, the School remains a mission of the Parish, and is open for enrollment and re-enrollment for Fall 2020.
- 6. What will be the new name of the new parish?** When the 2 parishes are consolidated into one new parish, it will create a new entity, and therefore it needs a new name for the purposes of bookkeeping and bill-paying, sacramental record keeping, real estate and legal matters, etc. The parish has begun the process of choosing a new name. We are conducting a survey, which is available on our website and in paper form at our churches and parish office. We invite you to please participate in this survey and give us your input. The two church buildings will continue to be known as St. Francis of Assisi Church and St. Joseph Church.