

Dear Parishioners of St. Columban and St. Francis de Sales Parishes:

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you on the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ.

On Thursday, May 30, 2024, we met with the Pastoral and Finance Councils of both parishes in a joint meeting to discuss transitioning your faith communities into a Pastoral Unit. Although your parishes are very close together, as a Pastoral Unit both churches will continue to have Sunday Masses. Your new faith community will continue to be served by 2 priests, a pastor, and an associate pastor. The pastor will be Msgr. Kevin Maloney and the associate will be made public in the Archdiocesan announcements of Clergy Appointments. The new Pastoral Unit will have the physical resources of both parishes for meetings and ministries. There will be separate Finance Councils and one Pastoral Council to advance one pastoral vision for this new faith community, supporting a building to building up the Body of Christ.

As a new Pastoral Unit, we pray that your community of faith may become more vibrant, working together to become more apostolic. The word Apostle means “one sent.” One sent with the good news of Jesus Christ. This is our mission and our vision for the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. We hope that your new community with more gifted and faith-filled people working together will more effectively minister to the people in your community and be a beacon of faith and hope in Cornwall. This mission is both a call to intentionally welcome people into your parish and take our faith into the community. This is the example that Jesus gave us in both nurturing the faith of his disciples and moving from village to village to proclaim the good news to the lost sheep of Israel.

On this feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, I turn to St. Augustine for inspiration. St. Augustine said we are the Body of Christ and when we receive the Eucharist, we become more perfect images of whom we receive. In the Eucharist we receive the resurrected, glorified, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Then we are called to take whom we receive into the world in which we live.

This is our prayer for your new community. That you may become who you receive and then glorify Jesus by how you live your lives in your new faith community.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marcel Dymowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M'.

Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall