

Feedback to "Tradition in Progress" Received via Email or Letter

Nice job to you and the crew for the proposed draft. This seems very workable and LOVE the addition of the Sunday night mass and a common parish social hall. I'm very much a traditionalist of the church and like to worship in a traditional church setting vs the new layout of a church.

In 1993, . . . We went to Switzerland, Vienna (most amazing sight-coming up from the subway and there is St. Stephen's towering over me--the Vienna Boys choir was not singing at mass that day though), Florence and Rome--need I say more about tradition than St. Peter's basilica. It was an amazing experience that I won't forget . . .

Thanks for being a breath of fresh air at St. Clare's!

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This proposal is the best thing that has happened to this parish since the merger occurred 8 years ago! And you are to be commended for your ability to listen to the people and look at all sides of the issues involved. I used to teach school and you get an A+ in my grade book.

I would, however, like to add my comments to what you have proposed. You might want to re-think the 6:00 Mass on Sunday evenings during the football season. We have many Packer fans in all three locations, and I am sure they would prefer a Saturday Mass to a Sunday Mass. I read one time that when the Packers play a home game on Sunday at 3:15 or at 7:30 at night on Sundays, that 6:00 church is cancelled!!

I like the idea of a children's liturgy, especially with your innate ability to bring the Gospel down to their level. (Sometimes it is even too deep for me to understand on the adult level) and I would willingly attend this.

The idea of Catechesis occasionally on Sunday Morning, involving entire families is excellent.

Outdoor shrines are a good idea, but how about adding a children's garden to this. (My grandson attended St. Sebastian in Milwaukee until his family moved to Pewaukee at the end of his fourth grade year. I attended grandparents day, and was introduced to their children's garden where there were flowers and a variety of herbs being grown. There was a small path, a bench, and a birdbath. The herbs were made available to parishioners. . . . A similar garden is at the Brown County Library in Green Bay.)

At one time, I taught fourth grade Religious Education many years ago, and I think some of these students had not seen the inside of a church since they made their first communion, so I think making Mass an integral part of the RE program is an excellent addition to the program. Discussions involving the parents, students, and other interested adults is also an excellent idea. I really enjoyed the one about "The Jewish Roots of the Mass" and I understand this could be a six week discussion topic. I would be interested.

I thought there was a facilities study done years ago, and demolishing the old Convent at Wrightstown was one of the things that study recommended. This should have been done a long time ago. I think there is still an asbestos problem there, and it has not been used since the offices were moved to Greenleaf when Fr. Dennis arrived 8 years ago. The rectory has been sitting empty as well, and probably should go, as I understand the rectory at Greenleaf is a much nicer home inside, and is on one floor rather than two or three.

I agree that Greenleaf and Askeaton need ramps to make the sanctuaries more easily accessible to handicapped parishioners, but I question doing much renovating or remodeling of the sanctuary space at any of the three locations since eventually there will be a new church built.

Using part of the Askeaton campus as a retreat center is also an excellent use of that facility. I also like the idea of utilizing the land we now own for a variety of social activities, but I would still like to see an Easter Sunrise service there until a new church is built. Renting the balance of the property out for farm use is also a good idea as an additional revenue source.

You are so good at seeing all sides of the issues involved. May God continue to bless you as you struggle with these three divergent communities; you are doing an excellent job.

I am so much in favor of this proposal, that I am willing to increase my church support, small as it is. I am on a very limited income, and my husband didn't leave me very well off financially, and sometimes it is a struggle to make ends meet, but I will find a way to sacrifice a little bit more.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. My prayers and blessing are with you now and in the future.

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Thank You! The "Tradition in Progress" is great - a wonderful "charting". I support you all the way and am planning on being at the Tuesday meeting.

The focus on Faithful Discipleship is much needed, as is adult and teen formation. You are indeed a good listener and we are blessed to have you as our "pastor". The progress in liturgy has already begun!

I believe to move away from a Saturday night Mass is also good. Sunday is the day! It may even give many a chance to "prioritize".

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As "outsiders" who have a difficult time attending Mass in the area due to conflicts we really want this community to come together. We pray for you and the entire community that God's will be done. We attend Holy Family Parish in Brillion almost always and have very close ties to St. Thomas in Newton, so I'm not sure we have any right to voice our opinion. But as St.

Clare is the parish our children grew up in, we want to be stewards of the Church, not just the buildings, here is our opinion.

There was so much thought and consideration put into the plan. Love the “Sunday: The Day of the Lord”. We were just reminded of this a few months back how important it is to keep Sunday Holy. So often we go to Mass and then try to catch up on all the things we didn’t get done during the week, cleaning, grocery shopping, lawn care, picking up all the tools that had been taken out during the week, and the list goes on. When it is time to do hay we have to make hay, but the rest of the time Sunday really needs to be The Lord’s Day.

Adding Adoration is a wonderful idea. Until a few years ago I didn’t even know what that was. How was it I grew up as a cradle, practicing, Catholic and never knew about this beautiful way to sit with the Lord. I believe some catechism needs to go along with this so our community can come to appreciate this treasure. I now go to Adoration several times a month. It has been ten years since my youngest kids were in the “RE” program. Since that time I have become a big promoter of Spiritus. Not sure if St. Clare’s use this but I have been very impressed by that organization. I have attended the Bible studies in the past and we usually just follow a program such as Jeff Cavins. The problem is with the discussion following, it usually doesn’t follow true theology to the Catholic beliefs. Example “maybe purgatory is our hardships here on Earth.” That is not really what the Church believes so if I attend a Bible Study it needs to be based on our Catholic teaching.

As far as buildings I cannot begin to imagine all the opinions you have heard. Building the new parish office is certainly a start. I remember when St. Thomas used the narthex and office space for Mass for over five years. Our families had a lot of sacraments in that parish hall including weddings and funerals. What a blessing when the Church was finally added. And as the time went on people began to realize the importance of needing a Church. I’m not sure how this is going to work with having Mass at three sites and the office at a different site. In Newton the Mass was only held in that area and the reality sunk in that four parishes better get it together. Personally [we] have been saving for this Church for the past eight years and we don’t want money to go to repair three sites. At some point you need to just stop the bleeding. I remember clearly some of the arguments about large open Narthex costing so much money. Now I look at both Newton and Brillion Churches and people are still “gathering” after 8 am Mass when the 10 am parishioners come. What a great way to celebrate Sundays! Can you imagine if we could use this new site to bring together the “funeral” meal. All on one floor, easy access for all, handicap accessible. Plus the three sites would have to work together for a funeral. That would be a great way to bring community together! I really think we need to start the raising of money, sooner than later. But . . . I’m not sure we want it going for repairs to sites that may not be used in a few years. . . .

There it is all our thoughts. We will continue to pray to know our role in this community and we know how blessed we are to have you leading us.

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While I understand the need to recognize the individual groups (site locations) within the parish, I can't help but feel that we are taking a step backwards with this proposal. While we are starting to make progress with attendance and sacrificial giving (which I feel is attributed to you and your welcoming attitude), I struggle with continuing to spend substantial dollars on liturgical supplies for three sites, as well as upkeep and the proposed renovations for each site when we are working to become one larger unit.

I don't know how much on a new organ would cost, but spending the money on a new organ for any of the sites seems like a waste of money. We have always been told that the cost to repair the organ in Wrightstown to work properly was extremely high. I have never priced an organ, but I can only imagine the cost would be high.

I think it would be a wiser use of parish resources to begin moving towards one location if that is the route we plan to go. We can incorporate traditions from all three sites into a new facility vs. spending thousands of dollars, possibly more than a million over the next five years to renovate and eventually close down all three locations for the new location.

I believe that we truly need to move forward as one and stop trying to foster the smaller communities within St. Clare. I know that some may decide to find another parish to celebrate, but they lose the tradition that they fought so hard for completely if they do that. I would ask then was it really that important to them?

I wish I could be at the meeting tonight, but I did want to share my thoughts with you. Thank you for taking the time to listen.

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[We] are excited about the plan presented last night at our parish meeting. We wanted to say thank you, great job and we look forward to being a part of the future of our parish!

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Just want to tell you that we think you are doing a terrific job as it appears you have put a lot of hours & thought into evaluating everyone's responses, surveys etc. We feel that your proposed plan is great & being that our faith community is unique - it is not unique in some ways. We feel also that by deferring any formal discussions of a new church building will give some time to see what happens here spiritually and financially. It sounds like our parish is on the upswing so that is wonderful. We pray that this keeps going up. We like the idea of razing some buildings that are not being used that much & building some new ones on the donated land. It is a start!!

You are also doing a great job with the spiritually that we see & feel. We love the bells ringing & the little children going up with their donations - a wonderful way for them to learn & little ones learn so fast. I am just amazed at all the baptisms lately - wonderful!!

We like the idea of having a "Sunday Committee" created. Prayers are so powerful so must be working!!

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[A conversation] Have you considered building a new parish office and RE center at our current Wrightstown location, building a new structure in between the present school and church, and linking the two? Razing both the convent and rectory is a good idea, as more parking space is always needed. For additional parking, possibly convert the old ice rink (the green space next to the current parking lot).

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[A card] Father Brian, You asked for comments and feedback from the meeting. You are doing a terrific job! If you are thinking of adding another Mass, instead of 6pm on Sunday, what about a Saturday Mass in Wrightstown, either the 4pm or a 5:30 or 6pm—with the other one in Askeaton. I feel “attendance” would continue to improve and so would the “revenue.” God Bless!

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[A letter] Hi Fr. Brian, If you wish to get our many parishioners back who go to Sat. 4:00 Masses in Kaukauna, De Pere, Freedom—wherever, it would be in your best interest to have that 6:00 Mass you’re proposing for Sunday to be a 5:30 or 6:00 on Saturday.

On Sundays people watch Brewers, kids sports, come Fall Packer games and family get togethers always. At any gathering there are drinks to be consumed and dinners at Gramma’s or Mom and Dad’s. Sunday Mass doesn’t seem [to have] anymore to attend than the 4:00 Mass on Tuesday. Glad you’re switching that time, even though grandkids have sports on Tuesday, but not every.

The Pope must have been the one to see a need for Saturday Mass—so what do we see as harmful in it—at least they are going—many go out Saturday nights to de-stress from their week’s work instead of cracking from stress and [going] over hill. Sunday nite Mass—work Monday morn. Have the Lord with you all weekend [with the] Saturday Mass.