NAMING OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES

On March 9th the Family of Parishes Transition Team discussed the naming of our Family of Parishes. The one most strongly suggested is:

Sarnia Roman Catholic Family of Parishes

This name meets the protocol given to us by the Diocese of London, for naming the Family of Parishes. However, we are looking for your input in respect to this name or any other suggestions you may have. Please see, listed below, the protocol for naming the Family of Parishes from the Diocese and if you have any suggestions please contact one of the Transition Team members. Their names and contact information are listed here. **Please give your input by Monday March 22.**

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Protocol for Naming Family of Parishes

The Plan for the Implementation of the Families of Parishes calls for each family to select a name for itself. This name would designate the family as a whole; it would not, quite obviously, replace the canonical titles of the individual parishes or Catholic Communities within the family.

- 1. The name of the particular Family of Parishes should be selected early in the six-month preparatory period prior to the actual activation of the family.
- 2. The name cannot replicate the canonical title of any of the parishes in the family (e.g., the St. Peter Family of Parishes). Nor should it be a hyphenated name that groups the names of the parishes in the family (e.g., the St. Peter Sacred Heart St. Michael Immaculate Conception Family of Parishes).
- 3. It is preferable that the name of the family not have a religious designation but, rather, refer to the geographic region or area where the parishes in the family are situated (e.g., the Chatham Family of Parishes, the Norfolk Family of Parishes, the West London Family of Parishes, the Bluewater Family of Parishes, etc.)
- 4. If there is a national community within the family, the chosen name needs to be translated into the particular language and appear alongside the name in English on all printed materials where the designation of the particular Family of Parishes appears (e.g., letterhead, signage, newsletters, Sunday Bulletin, etc.)
- 5. It will be for the Family of Parishes Transition Team to select possible names and to vet these with the parishioners in all the communities in the family. It may be that the Transition Team asks for feedback on a proposed name, or it may choose to have a vote on a name among the parishioners within the family. (It would be important to assure all that the canonical titles of the individual parishes and Catholic Communities will not disappear or be eliminated but maintained; that the new name is only a designation for the family as a whole.)
- 6. Once the particular name for the Family of Parishes is selected, it is to be forwarded to the bishop by the pastor of the family for his approval.
- 7. The Family of Parishes will thereafter be listed in the Diocesan Directory and on the diocesan website by the family name, with the names of the individual parishes and Catholic Communities listed beneath that name.