

What is in a Name?

Father John Tonkin

NW-2 Family of Parishes. Just reading or saying this out loud does not engender any sense of excitement or emotion does it? A name denotes significance and identity. Imagine if we humans were only identified by our social security number instead of the first, middle and last name bestowed on us by our parents? Being identified as just a number is demoralizing.

Now that we are three months into our parishes becoming a blended Family, let's discern what name we want for Family identity. Here is the format that we will use.

If you, or an organization of which you are a member, would like to submit a potential patron Saint or Mystery of the Lord e.g. Precious Blood, Resurrection, or Ascension...etc. for consideration, please include the following information, in this order:

- Your Name or Organization
- Proposed Patron
- Provide a brief biography of the saint or synopsis of the Mystery
- How or why does this proposed Patron speak to you as a group or individual?
- How does this Patron speak to life as a Catholic Christian in the 21st Century?
- How does this Patron speak to the reality of our five parishes within this Family of Parishes?

Now, a few other ground rules.

While I love our Blessed Mother, I have heard that several of the Families of Parishes want named under her honor. (On a recent call with Pastors in the Archdiocese, this was verified: three out of four already submitted were some derivation of 'Our Lady of ____'. The fourth was Divine Mercy Family of Parishes.)

Three of our five parishes are already named for Mary under one of her titles. So it might be worthwhile to explore other names or titles for our Family of Parishes. Please note that the individual parish names cannot be changed according to the canon law of the Church. So Mary will always be a significant part of our family. Patron submission forms can be found on all websites and Facebook. Hard copies will be available at all the churches in our family.

The deadline for submissions is Wed, November 30th. Please submit completed forms to Melissa Fent (mfent@celina-ic.org) or to Eric Clausen (e.clausen65@gmail.com). The review team is yet to be identified, but will consist of members of each parish, both staff and parishioners. The top five or so selections, as determined by this review team, will be presented in mid-December for parishioner comment prior to the new Patron being selected. As always, prayers are greatly appreciated and much needed throughout this process!

