



FAQs for October 1-20

(Encourage website review for full understanding)

What is going on?

We are re-organizing our archdiocese to ensure that our resources are better oriented to proclaiming the Gospel and making disciples. As Archbishop Schnurr wrote in his letter of Sept. 17, “We have a responsibility to make the best use of all the means which God has provided us to pursue this sacred mission.” Our desire is to apply a much higher proportion of our resources – human, physical and financial – to mission rather than maintenance. Check out www.BeaconsAOC.org for more info.

I can't believe this is happening!

The anxiety associated with first seeing the draft Families of Parishes is completely understandable. We hope all the faithful will spend time studying the website to understand why this initiative is needed. Keeping an open mind, digesting the information and offering thoughtful feedback are all important steps that we hope everyone will take. We will all be walking together through this process. Let's prayerfully support one another and keep our focus on the Lord and building His Kingdom.

When will the Families of Parishes be implemented?

July 1, 2022.

Will my parish close?

This phase of Beacons of Light is about combining parishes into Families of Parishes. No parishes will be closing in this phase. The future of each parish will be determined within its Family of Parishes over the next few years.

Will Mass times change next week/next month?

This phase of Beacons of Light does not address Mass times. Ultimately, decisions about Mass times will be made within each Family of Parishes.

Why is this happening?

(See FAQs from www.BeaconsAOC.org provided separately.)

Is this because of Covid?

No. This initiative began prior to the pandemic in response to long-term trends. All the data analysis covers the years preceding Covid.

Will my parish have a different pastor?

That has not yet been determined. Priest assignments will be announced in the Spring of 2022 and effective July 1, 2022. Some parishes will receive a new pastor.

If my church closes, who gets the money?

The Family of Parishes does. All assets, including the patrimony of the church, and liabilities stay within the Family of Parishes.

How can I get involved?

You are invited to: (1) pray for the archdiocese; (2) stay informed by checking out the information found on www.BeaconsAOC.org and by reading *The Catholic Telegraph*; and (3) provide thoughtful feedback on the draft Families of Parishes. We welcome all feedback online at www.BeaconsAOC.org between now and until Oct 20.

What if I don't have a computer?

Your parish office can help you access printed versions of the proposed Families of Parishes. You can then send your written feedback to Beacons of Light, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. Eighth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

How were these Families created?

The draft Families of Parishes were created based on analysis of demographic data and data collected from our parishes and schools, along with consultation with priests and lay leaders from across the archdiocese.

What will this mean for parish staff?

In the short term, Beacons of Light should cause no change in parish staff. After July 1, 2022, decisions about the makeup of parish staff appropriate to pursuing the sacred mission of the Church will be decided within each Family of Parishes.

What will this mean for Catholic schools?

The future of each Catholic school will be determined within each Family of Parishes at the local level after the implementation of Families in July 2022.