

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO CHURCH

3422 DENNISON AVENUE
DREXEL HILL, PA 19026-2015

April 9, 2016

Dear Parishioners,

As we announced in early February, Sacred Heart Parish, Clifton Heights and Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Drexel Hill, were selected by the Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Committee to take part in area pastoral planning at this time. This is a part of an ongoing process of parish planning within the archdiocese designed to address the shortage of priests available to serve as pastors and to identify parishes whose capacity for mission would be strengthened by working with one or more neighboring parishes.

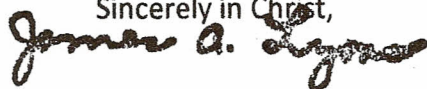
The pastors and three representatives from Saint Charles Borromeo and Sacred Heart Parishes met over the last several months to formulate a recommendation on how our parishes could collaborate. The models of parish collaboration discussed were: 1) merger – by which two parishes are completely combined into one parish, or 2) partnership – by which the pastoral leadership and administration of the parishes are combined, but they otherwise remain as separate parishes.

The members of the committee agreed that a parish partnership would be the best option for Sacred Heart and Saint Charles Borromeo Parishes. After review by the Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Committee and by the archdiocesan Council of Priests, this proposal was approved by Archbishop Chaput. It will go into effect in June of this year.

It will take some time for all of the elements of the parish partnership to be put into place. In the coming months and years the parishes will be working together to prepare for the change and to formulate plans on the best ways to accomplish our goals. Please keep both parishes in your prayers that we may always look to Jesus as the source of all that we do.

As I noted when this process began, change is never easy, but by working together we can build a more dynamic Catholic presence in our area – one that both respects our great past and is better prepared for challenges and wonderful opportunities of the future.

Sincerely in Christ,



Pastor