

**St. Pius X Parish and Gesu Parish**  
**Parish Twinning Project**  
**Questions and Answers**  
**October 10 -11, 2020 and October 17-18, 2020**

Q: What does “twinning Parishes” mean?

A: In Twinning Parishes, the two parishes continue to be independent parish entities and share one Pastor. This means that parish finances, schools, staffs, facilities still operate independently.

Q: Why are St. Pius X and Gesu twinning?

A: Both St. Pius and Gesu have been entrusted by the bishop of Toledo to the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. We provide for the administrative, pastoral and sacramental needs of these parishes. We have been at St. Pius since its founding. Fr. Stahl, OSFS was the first pastor and actually built the original facility. We have been at Gesu Parish since 2004, when the Jesuits, due to limited personnel, decided they could no longer staff the parish. At that time, the bishop turned to the Oblates and asked if we would be interested in taking over the parish. From the beginning we saw this as an opportunity to use our personnel resources more effectively.

Currently, we Oblates, along with the Jesuits, other religious communities and dioceses are facing the fact that we have many more ministerial commitments than we can actually fulfill. Facing limited personnel, the Oblates have made a corporate decision to commit to the three ministries we have in West Toledo, at the cost of other ministries we have around the country. We Oblates have a long history in Toledo, and a collaborative spirit, where we readily assist one another in our ministries. Fr. Dave Whalen will conclude his ministry at St. Pius on June 30<sup>th</sup>. This is the perfect opportunity to make best use of our human resources, and ensure effective and competent leadership in these institutions. So, with the bishop’s approval, we are moving in this direction of twinning the parishes.

Q: Who will be coordinating the process of twinning over the next months?

A: Fr. Jack Loughran, OSFS, the provincial of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, will be working with four parishioners from each parish and Fr. Marty Lukas as the Transition Team. The four parishioners from each parish were appointed by their respective pastors. The Team will meet regularly to discuss the process, identify next steps to be taken, respond to concerns from parishioners and guide the process to its completion.

Q: Will St. Pius X and Gesu eventually merge?

A: At this time, there is no intention to merge the two parishes.

Q: Who will be the pastor of the Twinned parishes?

A: Fr. Whalen, 2 years beyond the Toledo Diocesan retirement age, will begin ministry as a Senior Priest/Religious June 30, 2021. Fr. Lukas will then become pastor of Gesu and St. Pius X.

Q: Will this affect the schools in any way?

A: No, both schools will continue to function independently.

Q: Will programs and staff continue as they are?

A: Initially, yes. Programs and staff will remain the same. If and when it appears that collaboration between the two parishes in terms of specific programs, staffing, etc. would be beneficial, then steps will be taken to move in that direction.

Q: Will this twinning have any effect on the finances for either parish?

A: Yes, the only impact initially, will be the pastor's salary will be split between the two parishes, cutting administrative costs to each parish.

Q: Will there be a change in Mass times?

A: Yes, the schedule for weekend and daily masses, and other sacraments will be adjusted. There has been no discussion as to specifics on these changes as yet. The decision on these matters will be forthcoming as we approach July 1, 2021.

Q: If parishioners from one parish attend mass at the other parish, will their envelopes be sent to their home parish.

A: Yes, any donation indicating a particular parish will be sent to that parish.

Q: Will there be separate bulletins?

A: This question will be addressed by the Transition Team.

Q: Where will the pastor live?

A: Fr. Marty will likely remain in his current residence at Gesu.

Q: What will happen to the rectory at St. Pius X?

A: It is the hope of the Oblates, that the rectory will be available as an Oblate residence, which may include Oblates who will assist in the parishes' ministries.

Q: How will Fr. Marty handle the ministerial responsibilities of two parishes, when up until now there have been two priests available to do so?

A: Discussion is ongoing by the Oblates living in Toledo and SE Michigan regarding their availability to assist with the sacramental and pastoral needs of the parishes.

Q: Will Gesu and Pius X be twinned going forward indefinitely, or will there be a time where each can have its own pastor?

A: Considering current demographics, we consider it unlikely. But, who knows?

Q: Are both parishes financially viable?

A: Currently, yes.

Q: What happens if one of the parishes becomes no longer financially viable in the future?

A: If this were the case, the bishop will be informed and he will make the decision to determine the future of the parish.