

Pastor Column: 9-27-2026

Peace to you!

On Monday, September 14 at *Catholicism on Tap*, Fr. Kren and I hosted an “Ask Your Father” live podcast. It was great to have such a good crowd in attendance. Thank you to everyone who submitted questions, many of which we were not able to get to in the short amount of time.

Many of the questions centered around the new reality of our 5-Parish “Pastorate,” Our Lady of the Falls Catholic Community. While many realities of our parishes will remain the same, there have been and will be changes. In my opinion, the first question that should be asked (and answered) is “Why? Why are things changing or going to change? Why will some things remain distinct between the 5 parishes and some things be done together?”

Any change is intended for fulfilling the Catholic Church’s mission rather than operating in a “mode of maintenance.” For example, there are currently 25+ people from our 5 parishes reporting directly to me. This reality does not allow for the support and accountability our amazing staff and parish leaders need to do well. Staff restructuring and realigning will create a structure in which lines of communication and accountability are clear. The pastorate (all 5 parishes) will be able to live out its shared mission more effectively with a shared staff.

The aligning of our 5 parishes into Our Lady of the Falls, and any restructuring and sharing of staff, systems, resources, and communication channels (bulletin, website, etc...) that occurs will allow the pastor to better support and communicate with the staff, leaders, and all parishioners. Clarity will help each parish and our Catholic schools and apostolates to succeed and operate with a growth mentality.

In short, we can do more and better together than separately. We have witnessed this truth in our community the past several years. I am convinced that Jesus Christ desires an increased flourishing of our Catholic community in the Chippewa Valley! We want to be poised for growth, and not managing decline. This means we must be mission-minded and outward focused.

This community has done so much already to come together for the sake of mission. God has blessed us. Entrusting ourselves to the intercession of Our Lady, St. Charles, St. Peter, and St. Bridget, and relying on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to grow together as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ and invite many others into His family, the Church.