



**Pastoral Planning News
affecting
Holy Name of Jesus,
Our Lady of Mercy
and St. Charles Borromeo**

As you know, I have been serving as parochial administrator of Our Lady of Mercy since last June in addition to serving as your pastor. Our two parishes now share several staff members as well as weekday Masses. Bishop Clark, the Priest Personnel Board, and the members of the E. Greece/Charlotte Steering Committee have recognized that the planning group could and should provide additional support to me and to our shared staff members beyond that put into place last June. They also expressed the need for Our Lady of Mercy parish to be stabilized and experience as few changes as possible during the time that a new pastoral plan is being developed. After shared conversation, the following decisions were reached:

1. I will remain as parochial administrator at Our Lady of Mercy until a pastoral plan is completed and affirmed by Bishop Clark –this is estimated to be sometime between December 2009 and June 2010.
2. Fr. John Firpo will serve as the planning group's additional support to Our Lady of Mercy and to me for this time period. His role will be as follows:
 - he will attend meetings of the Our Lady of Mercy pastoral council and perhaps the finance council along with me
 - he will meet regularly with Deacon Dick Lombard, Karen Rinefierd (planning group liaison) and myself to strategize on the best ways to maintain or adapt ministries at OLM, to ensure good communication with staff and parishioners, and to deal with other issues which arise. An immediate issue will be to work with Marie Marton, the Mercy pastoral council and parents to resolve questions about how their religious education program for children will be handled.
3. The priests of the planning group recommit to maintaining the present Mass schedule for Our Lady of Mercy and Holy Name of Jesus throughout the planning process.

I think this approach will be of benefit to Our Lady of Mercy and to me. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Fr. John Gagnier