



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

Bishop Clark, the Priest Personnel Board, and the members of the E. Greece/Charlotte Steering Committee have 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. They also recognized that the planning group could and should provide additional support to Fr. Gagnier and staff members shared between Our Lady of Mercy and Holy Name of Jesus beyond that put into place last June. After shared conversation, the following decisions were reached:

1. Fr. John Gagnier 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 Fr. Gagnier for this time period. His role will be as follows:
 - he will attend meetings of our pastoral council and perhaps the finance council along with Fr. Gagnier
 - he will meet regularly with Fr. Gagnier, Deacon Dick Lombard and Karen Rinefierd (planning group liaison) 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 catechetical leaders, the pastoral council and parents to resolve questions about how the 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. The pastors will meet together regularly to address issues which arise, ensure sacramental ministry is appropriately shared, and develop various aspects of the pastoral plan.
4. Karen Rinefierd will be available to facilitate any parish town meetings which are deemed necessary for good two-way communication.

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