



The Year Ahead

PARISHIONER MEETING

OCTOBER 18, 2015

Agenda

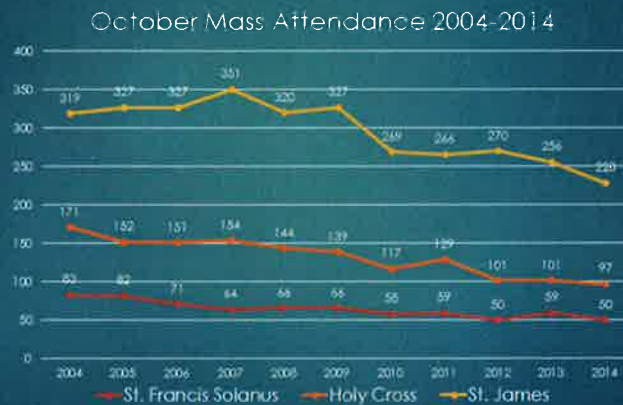
- ▶ Opening Prayer
- ▶ Bishop Matano's perspective: the larger picture
- ▶ Actions to be accomplished in the coming year
- ▶ Explanation of parish mergers (church and civil law)
- ▶ Questions/Discussion
- ▶ Closing Prayer

Opening Prayer



Why I chose this image: cycle of death and resurrection inherent in any change—whether chosen or not. We as Catholics live this in our daily lives, work and church lives. But we are people of faith and we know that God's promise to be with us and guide us gives us a hope that does not disappoint.

Bishop Matano's Perspective -- the larger picture: Mass attendance



SJ and SFS are at diocesan average in rate of decline; Holy Cross slightly higher in rate of decline

St. James -29%

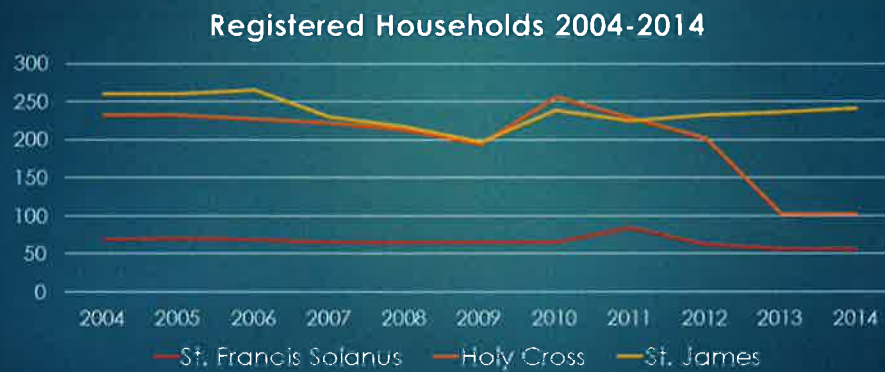
Holy Cross -43%

St. Francis Solanus -40%

2004: 573 total, now 375

Small number at each Mass in light of declining number of priests –Masses about 50 each at HC and SFS. SJ between 65 and 90.– these are the smallest in the diocese

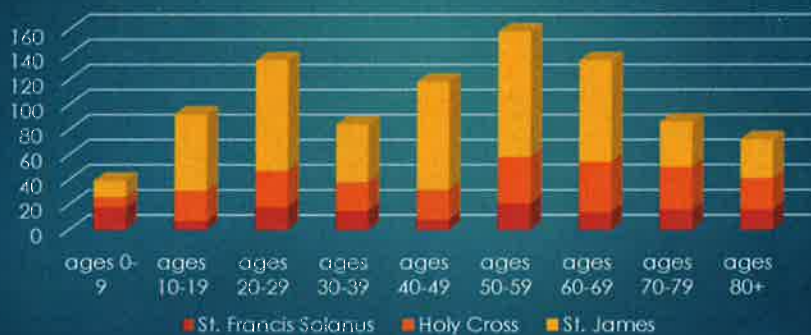
Bishop Matano's Perspective -- the larger picture: Registered Households (2014)



These are numbers from a year ago. Likely lower now—we are in the midst of a census to make the records more accurate.

Bishop Matano's Perspective -- the larger picture: Age distribution of parishioners

Age Distribution of Parishioners (2014)



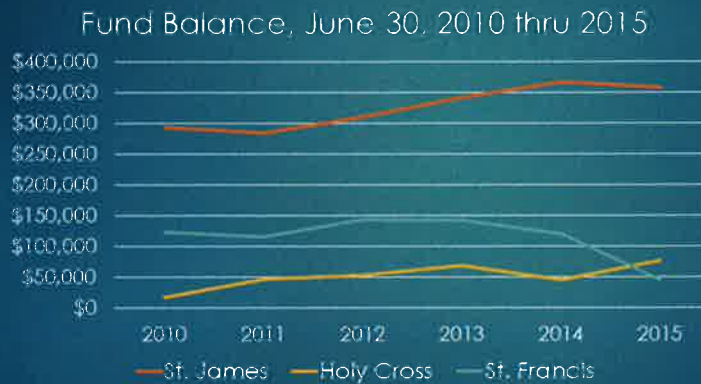
Again numbers from a year ago—likely lower in reality.

Notice:

The largest number of children below the age of 10 are at SFS

Supposedly we have 80 between 10 and 19—don't see them, potential opportunity for evangelization

Bishop Matano's Perspective -- the larger picture: Finances

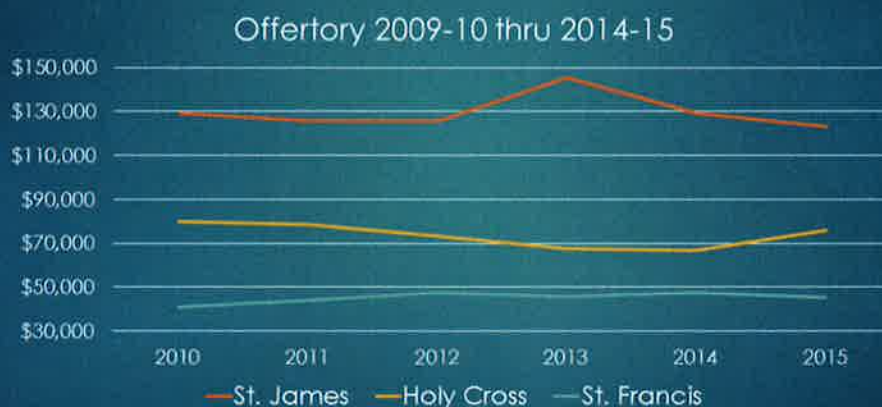


The Fund Balance is the same as an individual's net worth or a company's retained earnings. What's left after you take what you have and subtract what you owe.

HC and SFS have very low fund balances—among the lowest in the diocese

SFS fund balance declined last year because of improvements to the facilities—ones that can serve us well long-term.

Bishop Matano's Perspective -- the larger picture: Finances



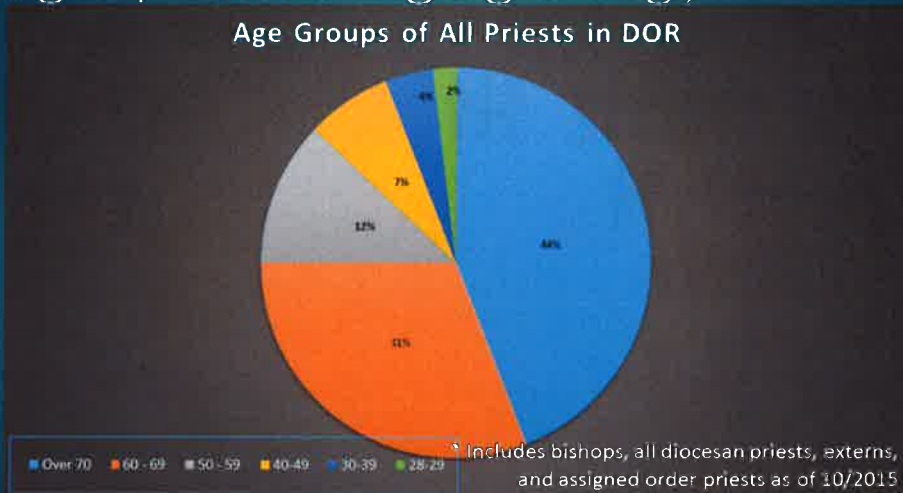
The three parishes are blessed with generous parishioners.

Note the increase in giving at Holy Cross after the appeal for increased giving this past year.

All 3 parishes ended this past fiscal year with small surpluses. Need to remember, though, that HC wasn't paying its share of costs for priests and RFD. Fr. Brendan ministers part-time with our parishes and has a part-time ministry with the migrant camps in Seneca County—therefore, the diocese pays part of his salary.

St. James in good financial condition but needs to pay attention to declining offertory.

Bishop Matano's Perspective -- the larger picture: Aging Clergy



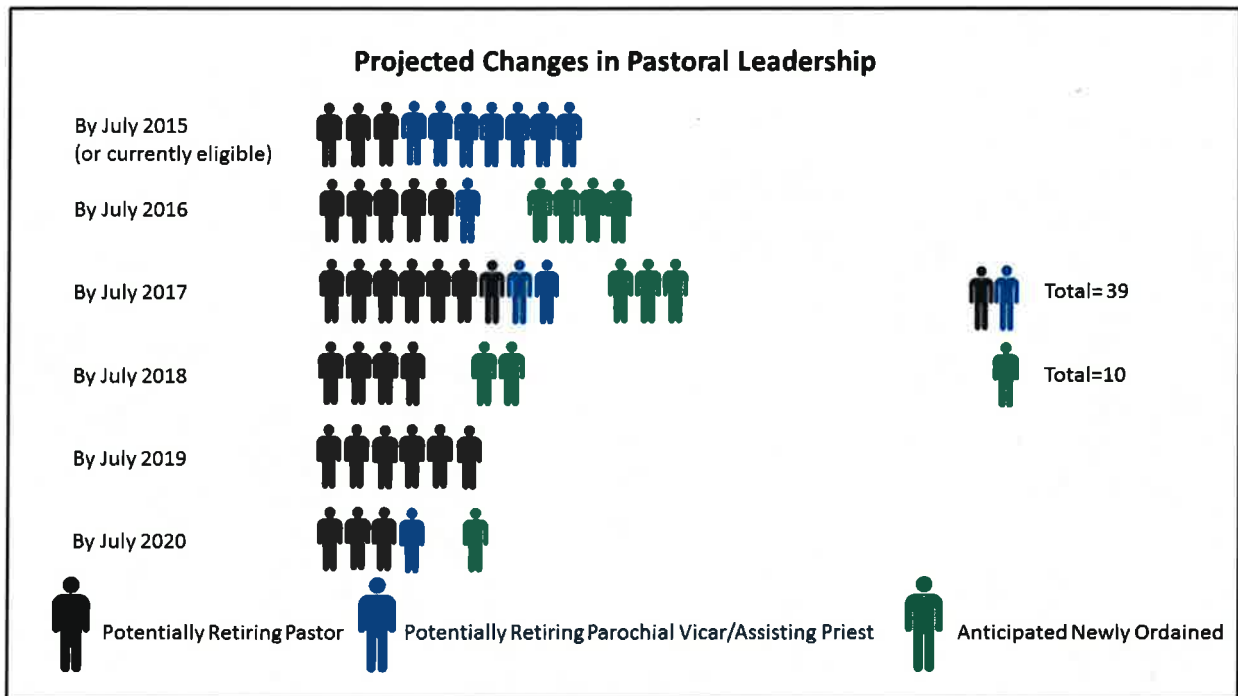
When we include retired priests (many of whom are continuing to support our parishes' ministry in significant ways) 44% are over the age of 70.

75% over the age of 60

We are blessed with priests from the Capuchin order. However, the Bishop is looking to the long-term and the needs of the entire diocese. We are a small community with small numbers at Sunday Masses and small numbers receiving the other sacraments.


Biggest difference: St. Kateri 21 weddings and 186 funerals

Our combined total: 11 weddings and 21 funerals.



Assumptions (best case scenario):

- No priests die in the next 5 years
- No priests have an extended illness
- All seminarians currently in progress continue to ordination and do so in the normal time frame
- Doesn't include all retired priests assisting in parishes but those in assigned role or one where there would be a significant impact if/when they can no longer serve



Goal: one faith community with sufficient people and financial resources to serve the church's mission in this area of the Diocese



Action: Single Pastoral Council

- ▶ Consultative body to Fr. Bernard
- ▶ Equal representation from 3 parishes
- ▶ Provide recommendations for priorities, directions and policies through pastoral planning for worship, evangelization, faith formation, liturgy, outreach, stewardship
- ▶ Serve as a model and witness to parishioners—building one faith community, respecting individual identities and traditions, utilizing the strengths of each parish

Action: Prepare for one Finance Council

- ▶ Meet together at least quarterly to share budgets and year-to-date finances
- ▶ Provide input to Fr. Bernard regarding buildings and property

Action: Unified staff in one office

- ▶ Planning team to weigh pros and cons of alternative locations for office and make a recommendation to Fr. Bernard
- ▶ Decision re. office location will be made by Fr. Bernard
- ▶ Any decisions re. changes in staffing or staff responsibilities will be made by Fr. Bernard

Action: Determine locations and times of Masses

- ▶ Planning team to review data, generate various alternatives, evaluate pros and cons of each, make recommendations to Fr. Bernard
- ▶ Fr. Bernard will make final decisions

Facility review: info available to inform decisions

Holy Cross

- ▶ Concerns with rectory and garage
- ▶ Steeple and roof do not need emergency work but deficiencies need to be addressed in phases

St. Francis Solanus

- ▶ Handicap accessible
- ▶ Overall condition of church and annex very good

St. James

- ▶ Overall condition of church & rectory very good

More detail in 9/24/15 inspection report

Parish mergers

- ▶ Involve both canon law (creating a new parish) and civil law (amalgamating corporations)
- ▶ We currently have 25 single parishes with multiple worship sites in the Diocese of Rochester ranging in size from 324 to 3982 registered households

Parish mergers

- ▶ The new parish has a new name
- ▶ One set of sacramental records
- ▶ The churches retain their names
- ▶ The financial assets and liabilities of the three parishes are combined
- ▶ Donor restricted funds retain their restriction and are applied to the purpose for which they were received

Parish mergers

- ▶ Benefits: pastoral advantages based on strength of numbers
- ▶ Drawbacks: perceived loss of local control

Questions and Discussion



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