



What's in a Name?

See, I am doing something new!

Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

Isaiah 43:19

God is at work in a special way within this venerable parish of Sacred Heart. As we move forward in the *Renew My Church* process, part of this work is identifying a name for the new parish we are forming with St. Philip. This is an opportunity to look forward. It represents a new beginning and, as such, how we might step forward together with a new name that reflects a renewed faith expressed in a new, larger community. A group formed by the current parish councils will help lead this process for us, and is gathering suggestions. We invite everyone in our parish to participate in this process (more on that in future updates), recognizing that there are canonical (Church) rules around what is allowable. Cardinal Cupich makes the final decision on the new name.

The individual churches, the two worship sites coming together, will retain their current names. So, what would that look and sound like? An example could be "St. John the Baptist Church of All Saints parish." A few more words than we are used to, for sure. But the beauty in this is the fact that the beloved names of the churches and sites remain, while we all get to contribute to the naming of our new, collective parish community.

In scripture, when God bestows a new name on someone it is always as part of a new mission. The following passage is a wonderful reminder of the importance of a name and God's promise bestowed upon that naming:

But now says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name. You are mine. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you...Fear not, for I am with you." Isaiah 43: 1, 4, 5

The process of renewal is an emotional one. For many of us, it is a time of significant change. The naming of a new parish is just one piece, with more to come, such as the assignment of new pastors for all the newly formed parishes. We will touch upon that subject and process in a future message.

For now, we continue to trust in the Lord and prayerfully discern possibilities for our new parish name. The team spearheading this effort will continue to keep everyone apprised of the process and developments and how you will be involved in it. Ultimately, we belong to Christ and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit we will be renamed in love just as Simon was when Jesus gave him the new name of Peter.

Sincerely,

Rev. Steven M. Lanza
Pastor, Sacred Heart

Rev. Jason Malave
Cardinal's liaison for *Renew My Church*