



# St. John Paul II Parish Family

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## **Video #5 – What Will/Will Not Happen**

Up to this point, a lot has been said about the process of canonical unification, the definition of terms, and your specific rights. Now we will look more explicitly at what will and will not be happening as a result of the canonical unification.

First, as has been made pretty clear, we will be going from three parishes (corporate entities) to one St. John Paul II parish. The St. John Paul II Parish will have three campuses with three church buildings, but it will be one legal entity instead of three legal entities. In many ways, this should not feel like a change because we are already functioning practically as a single entity, as a single “Parish Family.” In many ways, this will be a legal recognition and celebration of our lived practical reality – our lived reality of working closely together as a family.

Canon Law says that each parish has to have its own finance council and its own pastoral council (see cc. 536, 537). Right now, we technically/legally have three finance councils and three pastoral councils – one for each of our parishes. Fortunately, all three of our finance councils and all three of our pastoral councils are already meeting together, working together, and advising the pastor about the life and finances of our three campuses. When we become one canonical parish, we will only have one finance council and one pastoral council. Again, this should not feel like a drastic change since each of these councils are already working together as a single unit.

Now, to focus on what will NOT be happening as a result of the canonical unification. First, no church building will be closing! In fact, it is worth noting that closing a church building is very difficult. According to Canon Law, in order to effect the canonical unification, the Archbishop only needs “a just cause.” In other words, he only needs some good justification for making us one canonical parish. However, in order to close a church building, the Archbishop would need “multiple grave causes.” This is a very high bar to reach, and with this legal standard none of our church buildings are in danger of being closed.

Also, none of the names of our church buildings will be changed. Even when we become St. John Paul II Parish, we will still have OLGH church, SH church, and SM church. In fact, the Archbishop does not have the authority on his own to change the names of any of our churches. A change to the name of any church would have to be approved by the Vatican.

Finally, you will still be able to designate funds that you donate to a particular campus. Of course, we will encourage everyone to donate to St. John Paul II Parish so that funds can be used wherever they are most needed throughout our work and throughout our campuses. However, Fr. Fox has worked very hard to allay any fears you may have about money not being used at a campus or church that you are especially attached to. So, if you wish, you will still be able to donate money for a particular church campus, and you can be sure that your money will be used only on that campus. In fact, Canon Law places a very high value on “respecting the intentions of the donor” (see cc. 326 §2, 531, 706, 950). It would actually be illegal according to Canon Law if money designated for a particular campus were accepted and then used for something else. So, you will be able to designate money for a particular church campus and you can be confident that the money will be used for that campus and nothing else.

I sincerely hope that these videos and articles have been helpful. I am incredibly proud to be a part of this parish family and I am amazed at the good work and collaboration you have already achieved. I am looking forward to being with you as we take this next step of becoming a single parish, and continuing to encounter the love of Jesus Christ and to share that love with the world.

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