

Keeping Faith...



A new BEGINNING for
Holy Family Parish
Spirit of Christ Mission
and
Blessed Pope John XXII
Catholic Community
Missoula, Montana

The “blending” of two parishes
into one Catholic Community

Fulfilling the **MISSION.**



the bulletin

Catholic Parishes of Southwest Missoula & Lolo

Pope John XXIII † Holy Family ~ Spirit of Christ Mission

Keeping Faith ~ Fulfilling the Mission

October 1, 2006 ~ Twenty-Sixth Sunday Autumn Ordinary time

A NEW BEGINNING!

Last Sunday, **September 24, 2006** one hundred fifty parishioners of the Catholic Parishes of Southwest Missoula and Lolo (Pope John XXIII, Holy Family and Spirit of Christ Mission) gathered at the Pope John Parish Social Center to conclude a conversation regarding the future of Holy Family, Pope John XXIII and Spirit of Christ Mission. Those present, representing each of the communities, confirmed the direction set in motion at the **June 19** all parishioner gathering and at the meetings held in each of the individual parishes **September 17, 18 & 19**.

One hundred forty three of those present directed the Joint Pastoral Council and Father Hislop to recommend to Bishop Thomas that Holy Family and Pope John XXIII become one parish and that Spirit of Christ Mission in Lolo continue as a Mission of the newly formed amalgamated parish.

The Joint Pastoral Council and Father Hislop will make that recommendation to the Bishop at its meeting on Sunday, October 1, 2006 at Holy Family. At that same meeting the Joint Pastoral Council will begin discussion regarding the timeline for the amalgamation once it is approved by the Bishop. The Joint Pastoral Council will base its discussion on its recently published document (mailed to all parishioners) entitled, *HOW WOULD THAT LOOK? Implications of merging Holy Family and Pope John XXIII Parishes with Spirit of Christ in Lolo Remaining a Mission*.

The conversation which led to this decision initially began in **February 2004** with the first Joint Meeting of the two parish councils. As those meetings continued questions and concerns were raised regarding the ministry and services the parishes were able to offer. Decisions were made to share both resources and administration in order to expand parish ministries in such areas as Pastoral Care, Youth Ministry, Communication, and Social Concerns. Other issues and concerns began to emerge. To assist in furthering the discussion the Joint Council invited **Sister Rita McGinnis**, director of the newly established Diocesan Office of Pastoral Planning to assist in the developing conversation.

In **January 2006** the first ALL PARISHIONER gathering was held at Holy Family, facilitated by Sister Rita. Approximately one hundred-eighty parishioners participated. The agenda included the history of the shared collaboration, the larger diocesan picture and concerns; demographics of the Missoula area in relation to the growth of the Catholic parishes; issues of finance and stewardship among the three communities; the status of the parish buildings and grounds; and the various projects and successes of the joint parish shared ministries. *(continued—inside Insert >>)*

A NEW BEGINNING...CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

In **May, 2006** Bishop Thomas announced that Father Matt Huber would be re-assigned as pastor in another parish in the Diocese and that Father Hislop would become Pastor of Holy Family and Spirit of Christ Mission while remaining Pastor at Pope John XXIII. This necessitated a change in the Parish Mass Schedules as well as other adjustments to parish ministry.

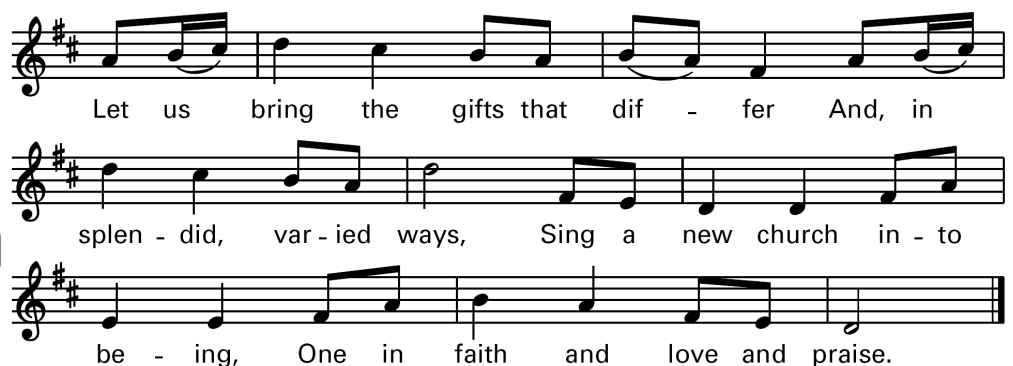
The second ALL PARISHIONER GATHERING occurred on **June 19, 2006** at Pope John XXIII. **Bishop George Thomas** attended and participated in that gathering with approximately one hundred forty eight parishioners. The conversation centered around possible directions for the parishes and mission:
(1) merge Holy Family and John XXIII into one parish; Spirit Christ remains a Mission of that parish;
(2) merge Holy Family, Pope John XXIII and Spirit of Christ Mission into one parish;
(3) other possible options (including making no change).
After lengthy conversation participants were asked to indicate in which direction they were "leaning" regarding the proposed possibilities. Over 80% favored option 1.

The third gathering of parishioners occurred in each parish for members of that parish on **September 17** (Spirit of Christ), **September 18** (Holy Family) and **September 19** (Pope John XXIII). A total of one hundred fifty two persons participated in these three meetings. 84% of all participants indicated a preference for the option of amalgamating Pope John XXIII and Holy Family into one parish while maintaining Spirit of Christ as a Mission of the unified parish.

The fourth Gathering occurred **September 24, 2006**. 95% of participants directed the Pastoral Council and Father Hislop to recommend to Bishop Thomas that Holy Family and Pope John XXIII become one parish and that Spirit of Christ Mission in Lolo continue as a Mission of the newly formed amalgamated parish.

Thank You: A new beginning is in the making!
Thank you: Joint Pastoral Council & Transition Team
Thank you: Sister Rita McGinnis
Thank you:
Every parishioner of Holy Family, Pope John XXIII and Spirit of Christ Mission

SING A NEW CHURCH



Text: 87 87 D; Delores Dufner, OSB. © 1991, Sisters of St. Benedict. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved. Music: from J. Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Pt. II, 1813.

It was February 2004 when we first began a conversation
about ministry and mission, needs and gifts.

Now after months and weeks of conversation we have reached a conclusion....
to Strengthen our bond of Unity as Catholics—rooted in the same faith,
nurtured in the same ritual and nourished at the one table.....

We stand at the threshold of a new home
only because we have been at home so long here....

A home built on the faith and the courage
of those who began another conversation 36 years ago
which led to another journey from Saint Anthony's to here.
A journey made with the feet of those who chose to move, to travel,
because of eyes which could see a new vision
to be built with hands open and giving for what could be.

They sacrificed their home of Saint Anthony's for the journey to a new place
in a new time, for a new generation.

We stand at the threshold not unlike the doorway of that first journey from there to here.

I believe that we have the potential of handing on the faith in vibrant new ways.
We have every opportunity, we have everything that is needed to revitalize our church, our parish,
our experience of believing and our way of living that belief.

The decision we made last Sunday afternoon, after a long conversation—
the one for which we stood, to embrace our shared faith,
our common call to discipleship, holds incredible potential
to bring new vibrancy and excitement to our new about to formed parish,
built from what has been built and shaped in the faith handed on to us.

For Holy Family

it will not be easy to leave what has shaped life and faith these past 34 years.
There is much to celebrate but there will be sadness in the departure.
So we will need to remember and tell the story as a new journey is made.

This space is sacred for it holds the holy memory of a people—
birth, life, death:
Baptism, confirmation, first communion, reconciliation, Marriage,
prayer, worship around a holy table and a holy meal,
the place a final loving farewell was bid amid tears of grief and loss
as our beloved were sent from here into the new eternal home.

Here Christ was and is seen in the ordinary living and praying of a faithful band
of disciples who lived and died, laughed and cried, celebrated and partied,
danced and sang, learned and discussed
perhaps not always aware that it was with Christ that all of this was done!

It will not be easy for those who know where every nail was pounded
and every bit of concrete was poured.

But it is exactly the vision and enthusiasm of those days
which led to the beginning and life of this parish, that is needed even more today.

“For here we do not have a lasting home.”
The journey continues, the building goes on for a new time,
a new age, a new generation!

For Pope John XXIII

it will be less difficult but not easy.
For here too life and faith has been shaped and lived for 35 years.
Here as well the original builders are among us.
A new parish, a new community, a new vision is rising in that/this place.

It will not be the same, a new spirit, new people, new needs and new gifts.
We will all be transformed into a greater and more dynamic vision
of what it means to the Church—the Catholic Church in this time, place and age.

For parishioners at John XXIII it cannot be “welcoming new people into our home”,
it is rather *(as Nick Pickolick so eloquently reflected at our parish meeting two weeks ago)*,
building a new home, a new parish together where all equally belong.

For Spirit of Christ Mission

the conversation these past few years can lead to an even deeper awareness
of the value of church community, relationships and connections
so profoundly and well expressed in that/this community.
The questions and concerns that have been raised can lead all of us
to connect even more deeply with our larger Catholic experience
and value more profoundly the mission to which we are all called.

Spirit of Christ, as a result of the conversation in which we have all engaged
(or been invited to engage) will continue to be a mission of the new parish,
intimately connected one with the other
and collaborating together in the ministry of the Church.

I believe we are on the threshold of a new and exciting possibility.

It will require sacrifice, it will necessitate vision,
a strong heart and a willingness to move!
but the potential we are unleashing is amazing.

We do this at Autumn's beginning, this great season of letting go.
How beautiful that is; how peaceful and how filled with possibility.

That is Christ's way, that is the message of the Gospel today—**letting go**.

The hand and foot and eye of which he speaks
are the hands of grasping, holding on tight;
the foot, the feet of those who will only stand still;
and the eye—the eyes of those who will not see beyond their own need.

So “cut it off and pluck it out”,
let go of the things that keep you from growth—from giving, seeing and moving,
before you wake up someday and find yourself up to your neck in garbage—
“Gehenna” was the name of Jerusalem's city dump!!

In a moment again we will pray as part of the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving,
these words and to them we will sing AMEN!
Let these words be our prayer as we begin these days of letting go,
of seeing anew and walking to the threshold of a new parish.

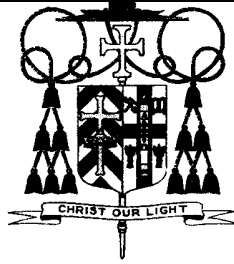
”Through the power of your Spirit of love include us now and forever
among the members of your Son whose body and blood we share....

Renew by the light of the gospel
the Church of Holy Family, Pope John XXIII and Spirit of Christ.

Strengthen the bonds of unity
that together your people may stand forth in a world torn by strife and discord
as a sign of oneness and peace.”

THESE ARE THE BEGINNING DAYS OF INCREDIBLE POSSIBILITY!

Open your hands, see with new eyes and walk, no, **run** with new feet!



November 2, 2006

Father Ed Hislop, Staff and Parishioners
John Paul XXIII Parish
1475 Eaton Street
Missoula, MT 59801

Dear Friends in Christ:

I am writing to express my profound gratitude and support for you, Father Hislop, along with your parish staffs, volunteers and parishioners. The comprehensive and challenging processes you have engaged in for the past several years are producing an abundant spiritual harvest.

I have followed closely the steps you have designed in this highly participative process, which has focused on the very important question, "How can we best provide *quality* pastoral care for the people in the Parishes of Holy Family, John XXIII and the Spirit of Christ Mission at Lolo?"

I applaud your efforts which in recent months have led to the recommendation that we combine the parishes of John XXIII and Holy Family and explore concrete steps regarding the use of parish and human resources. This will enable us to ensure that the sacramental and pastoral care of our people will remain ever in focus.

Father Hislop, I am grateful for your collaborative leadership and your willingness to serve the combined parishes as well as the Spirit of Christ Mission at Lolo. I am thankful too for the tireless work of Sister Rita McGinnis, whose presence in these communities has been catalytic and energizing. I am deeply appreciative of the on-going efforts of parish staffs and volunteers who have made considerable sacrifices for the sake of the Gospel.


And to you, dear parishioners, I thank you for your willingness to work with Father Hislop, his staff and councils so the parish communities involved remain "one, holy, Catholic and apostolic."

On a personal note, I thank God each day for the life and ministry of Father Matt Huber, for the many ways he transforms others through the light and love of Christ.

In the weeks and months ahead, I will work closely with you as we address the canonical questions involved in this labor intensive process. I believe that the path you are forging will serve as a creative model that can be used widely throughout the Diocese of Helena as we enter together into a comprehensive pastoral planning process.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend George Leo Thomas
Bishop of Helena

O F F I C E O F T H E B I S H O P

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the bulletin

Catholic Parishes of Southwest Missoula & Lolo

Pope John XXIII † Holy Family ~ Spirit of Christ Mission

Keeping Faith ~ Fulfilling the Mission

November 5, 2006 ~ Thirty-first **Sunday** Autumn Ordinary time

November....a time to "re-member"

REMEMBER NOT TO FORGET!

**ON THE SUNDAYS OF NOVEMBER, we make the journey
to become a NEW parish, a new integrated community of faith.
*Through us be spoken the Gospel to the world!***

TODAY, November 5, AT HOLY FAMILY:

Breakfast † Table Talk ~ Remembering the Beginning
Sunday Dinner at Home

Next Sunday, November 12 at Pope John

Breakfast † Table Talk ~ Memories and Stories
Sunday Dinner at Home

Sunday, November 19 at Holy Family

Breakfast † Table Talk ~ Shaping the Future
Sunday Dinner at Home

Sunday, November 26 at Pope John

Breakfast † Table Talk ~ Beginning the Journey
Sunday Dinner at Home

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am: Prayer of Farewell at Holy Family.

PROCESSION from Holy Family to Pope John Church

**Bringing the Sacred People, Stories, Memories and Objects
to make a NEW parish community.**

**Festive Breakfast at the NEW parish of
Holy Family † Pope John XXIII**

A process to determine a new name for the new parish will begin in January 2007



The bulletin

Catholic Parishes of Southwest Missoula & Lolo
Pope John XXIII † Holy Family ~ Spirit of Christ Mission
Keeping Faith ~ Fulfilling the Mission

November 12, 2006 ~ Thirty-second **Sunday** Autumn Ordinary time

November...a time to "re-member"

REMEMBER NOT TO FORGET!

**ON THE SUNDAYS OF NOVEMBER, we make the journey to become a NEW parish,
a new integrated Catholic Community of Faith.**

Remembering HOLY FAMILY ~ SPIRIT OF CHRIST MISSION

In the summer of 1972 the South Hills area of Missoula was expanding. The diocese determined the need for a parish in the area and named Father Jim Hogan to begin the process of establishing a parish. The newly developing parish, formed from Saint Anthony's, first gathered at Atonement Lutheran Church, whose generosity and ecumenical spirit helped foster the development of this new Catholic parish. On the weekend of November 6, 1972, during the liturgies, Bishop Raymond G. Hunthausen officially established the parish. The name Holy Family was given to our new parish community.

The new community eventually moved from Atonement Lutheran when the new rectory was built and began gathering in the basement of the existing rectory for liturgies. At that time an additional Mass was added to the weekend schedule. In 1978 discussion began to focus on the need for more space as the parish continued to grow. With the support of the Diocese a grant was obtained from the Catholic Extension Society and together with commitments from the parishioners ground was broken. With generous support of parish volunteers Holy Family's current building was constructed, and on November 4, 1979, Bishop Elden F. Curtiss dedicated the new parish center.

At this same time, the needs of the Lolo community were growing. A committee was formed in early 1977 to look into the possibility of building a center for worship in Lolo. In January of 1978 construction began on the building for Spirit of Christ Mission. Bishop Curtiss formally dedicated the mission on April 28, 1978.

From the very beginning, Holy Family and Spirit of Christ have nurtured one another. The communities have shared the same pastors and have grown to strengthen one another in their common Catholic faith. Many of parish ministries are jointly exercised, and each community has worked to strengthen and support one another.

(Text taken from Holy Family Catholic Parish & Spirit of Christ Mission 2004 Directory)

TODAY, November 12 at Pope John

MASS † Breakfast † Table Talk ~ Memories and Stories ~ Sunday Dinner at Home

Next Sunday, November 19 at Holy Family

MASS † Breakfast † Table Talk ~ Shaping the Future ~ Sunday Dinner at Home

Sunday, November 26 at Pope John

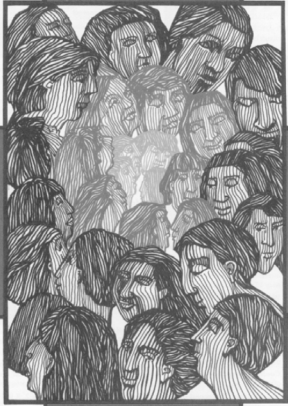
MASS † Breakfast † Table Talk ~ Beginning the Journey ~ Sunday Dinner at Home

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am: Prayer of Farewell at Holy Family.

PROCESSION from Holy Family to Pope John Church

Bringing the Sacred People, Stories, Memories and Objects to make a NEW parish community.

Festive Breakfast at the NEW parish of HOLY FAMILY † POPE JOHN XXIII



The bulletin

Catholic Parishes of Southwest Missoula & Lolo

Pope John XXIII † Holy Family ~ Spirit of Christ Mission

Keeping Faith ~ Fulfilling the Mission

November 19, 2006 ~ Thirty-third **Sunday** Autumn Ordinary time

November...a time to "re-member"

REMEMBER NOT TO FORGET!

**ON THE SUNDAYS OF NOVEMBER, we make the journey to become a NEW parish,
a new integrated Catholic Community of Faith.**

Remembering POPE JOHN XXIII

In 1970 Saint Anthony Parish was one of the largest parishes in the Diocese of Helena. In order to meet the growing demands of pastoral ministry and to provide an extended Catholic presence in the developing and fast growing portion of Southwest Missoula, the Diocese determined to begin the process of developing a "satellite parish" from Saint Anthony's. Father Robert Noonan was assigned to direct that process. After a year of study, dialogue and preparation, Pope John XXIII Parish was founded on November 4, 1971, the fourteenth anniversary of Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli's installation as Pope John XXIII. Announcing the formation of the parish, Bishop Raymond Hunthausen, Bishop of Helena, said, "It is my dream you will make this new parish of Pope John XXIII the House of God and the Gate of Heaven." Ministry continued to be shared with Saint Anthony's, and after the development of Holy Family the following year, the three parishes together were known as "the Southside Catholic Community." For the next 17 years, living out the message of Pope John XXIII to "seek rather what unites, not what may separate," this new community of believers was welcomed by the Lutheran Community of Prince of Peace to share their church facility. Mass was celebrated in the Prince of Peace Worship space. In an unprecedented spirit of ecumenism, a strong and vibrant relationship developed with Prince of Peace through the years of sharing a common facility. Both communities shared social events, prayer experiences and various ministries of social concerns. The ecumenical spirit was strong. As the Parish of Pope John XXIII began to grow the need for a new parish facility was determined in 1979. That year, a land committee and building committee were formed and a poll the following year showed most parishioners willing to build a new church. With the support of the Diocese a generous grant was obtained from the Catholic Extension Society and together with commitments from the parishioners ground was broken. Land owned by the diocese where the church now stands had been used for a rectory and a portion of it was sold in order to help fund the new building project. In May of 1987, with the approval and support of Bishop Elden Curtiss, groundbreaking was held for a new facility. Parishioners then directed their energies to the building effort, holding a variety of fund raising activities, building the inside walls, laying flooring and carpet, constructing sidewalks, and proudly seeing the dedication of the new Parish Center on September 19, 1988.

From Parish Directory, 1991, 1998

TODAY-Sunday, November 19 at Holy Family

MASS † Breakfast † Table Talk ~ Shaping the Future ~ Sunday Dinner at Home

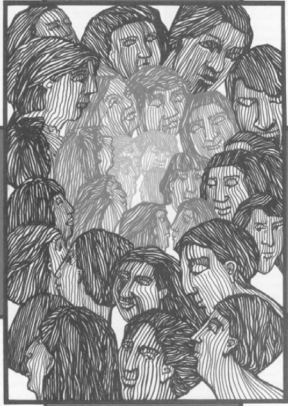
Sunday, November 26 at Pope John

MASS † Breakfast † Table Talk ~ Beginning the Journey ~ Sunday Dinner at Home

Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am: Prayer of Farewell at Holy Family.

PROCESSION from Holy Family to Pope John Church

Bringing the Sacred People, Stories, Memories and Objects to make a NEW parish community.



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Catholic Parishes of Southwest Missoula & Lolo

Pope John XXIII † Holy Family ~ Spirit of Christ Mission

Keeping Faith ~ Fulfilling the Mission

November 26, 2006 ~ Last Sunday of the Church Year ~ FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

The Great PROCESSION

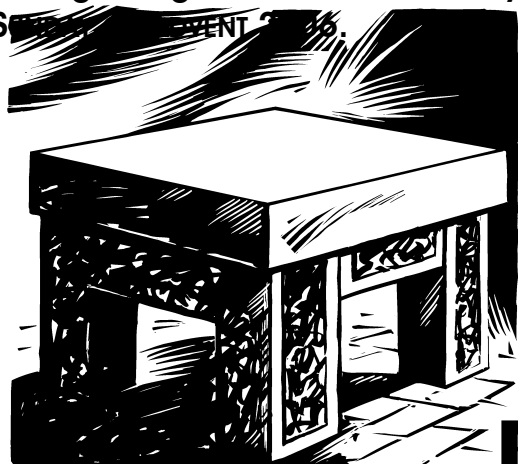
**On the Way to Make a NEW PARISH Community:
NEXT SATURDAY MORNING, December 2, 2006**

At 10:00 am we gather at HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, where we will pray honoring memories and new visions. We will offer a prayer of farewell.

Then, in PROCESSION FROM HOLY FAMILY TO POPE JOHN (in cars) we will make our way, bringing the sacred people, the story, the memory; the CROSS, the ALTAR, the AMBO, the CHAIR, and the FONT. With reverence and love we will carry the BLESSED SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S BODY AND BLOOD. We will make our WAY to the beginning of a NEW PARISH COMMUNITY.

When we arrive at HOLY FAMILY-† POPE JOHN XXIII CHURCH, WE WILL ENTER, placing the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel, and then we will install the Holy Family Cross, Altar, Ambo and Chair (the small font will be placed at the West Entrance). We will pray again and we will give thanks.....for WE ARE ON THE WAY!

Then we will celebrate with a FESTIVE BREAKFAST, preparing ourselves to enter the beginning of the new church year and the new beginning of our new parish on the FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.



**EVERY PARISHIONER
of each parish is needed to join**

- ♦ in the prayer;
- ♦ in the PROCESSION;
- ♦ in the celebration of a new beginning;
- ♦ in the festive breakfast.

REMEMBER TO BE PRESENT!



HOLY FAMILY  POPE JOHN XXIII CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
SPIRIT OF CHRIST MISSION LOLO

the bulletin

1475 EATON STREET ~ MISSOULA, MT 59801

PASTORAL OFFICES: Phone 406-721-2405 Fax 406-721-0025 E-Mail: Popejohn23@Montana.com

The First Sunday of ADVENT ~ December 3, 2006

an advent beginning . . .

December 2/3, 2006

father in heaven...today we come before you, the light
of Christ encircling us, shaping and forming us into
a new community of faith.

Send your Spirit from heaven to make this church
an ever-holy place,
and this altar a ready table for the sacrifice of Christ.

Here may the waters of baptism overwhelm the shame of sin;
Here may your people die to sin and live again
through grace as your children.

Here may your children
gathered around your altar,
celebrate the memorial of the Paschal Lamb, and be fed at the table of
Christ's word and body.

Here may prayer, the Church's banquet,
resound through heaven and earth as a plea for the world's salvation.

Here may the poor find justice,
the victims of oppression, true freedom.

From Rite of Dedication of the Altar, adapted

ONE
YEAR
LATER. . .



REMEMBERING.....Following a three year process, our new “blended parish” was officially formed on the First Sunday of Advent, December 2/3, 2006. One year later, following a “naming process,” Bishop Thomas named our new parish BLESSED TRINITY... This SUNDAY, May 27,-the Feast of the HOLY TRINITY, is our parish NAME DAY.

Proclamation

Responding to the need for continuing quality pastoral care for the Church in southwest Missoula, in February of 2004, the parishes of Holy Family and Blessed Pope John XXIII began a collaborative process to chart their course to the future. Their work culminated in a decision to merge those two parishes into one, and to retain Spirit of Christ Mission in Lolo. On the First Sunday of Advent of 2006, I presided at a liturgical ceremony marking the joining together of the two parish communities.

For the past year, the Holy Family † Blessed Pope John XXIII Community has celebrated the Mass and the Sacraments of the Church, prayed and reflected, growing together in ministry and communion.

We are aware of the profound insight gained by the entire community and especially by the Pastoral Council and the pastor, Father Edward Hislop, as you engaged in the process for recommending the name for this merged parish.

Therefore, invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I hereby declare and proclaim that the parish communities formerly known as Holy Family and Blessed Pope John XXIII shall hereafter be known as


Blessed Trinity Parish

and shall include Spirit of Christ Mission in Lolo.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Helena on the First Sunday of Advent, the second day of December, two thousand seven,




Most Reverend George Leo Thomas
Bishop of Helena


Reverend John W. Robertson
Chancellor