Dear Holy Name of Jesus Parishioners.

I have been told there are many rumors not just floating around the parish but that the parish is awash in them. I have not communicated any new developments to you because there are no new developments to communicate. Holy Name of Jesus is not closing. PERIOD!

Just so there is no question about where things stand, let’s go through it. There are three priests assigned to our Family of Parishes. That is not going to change until one of the three either is incapacitated or dies. I had reason to check that again just last week and that is still the plan at the Archdiocese. As long as we have three priests, we need something for them to do on the weekends, therefore, the current Mass schedule will not change.

What happens when one of our priests is taken from us due to poor health or death? I don’t know yet because that will be decided by a committee made up from the three parish councils which will come together this summer. God forbid we should need this plan before then. What the future Mass schedule will look like will be up to that committee to formulate.

Why wasn’t Holy Name of Jesus given one of the Masses to celebrate the new name of the Family of Parishes? Holy Name of Jesus does not have any facility that will accommodate at least 500 people at one time. The desire of the planning committee was to have all of the parishioners of all three parishes together in one Mass. No facility could be found on short notice that could accommodate 1000 people (the current combined Sunday Mass count,) therefore; two Masses were the best that could be managed when the approval of the name finally arrived from the Archbishop. Noting the unfairness to Holy Name and the positive response to the Name Celebration Masses, Holy Name will host the first of the All-Family Masses to be held quarterly at each parish beginning in June. The Masses will be in the Parish Hall and there will need to be 3 Masses that weekend instead of two, but again, it’s the best we can manage. The plan to have All-Family Masses was approved on Tuesday, March 7. More details on that weekend will be posted as they are firmed up.

What about the long-range future of Holy Name? To be honest, that’s more uncertain. Will Sunday Masses always be offered here? I hope so, but I can’t guarantee that. At any rate, we will not have to face such a situation as long as we have three priests. Please continue to pray for and encourage the good health of your priests.

As for the even-longer-range future of Holy Name (20 plus years from now,) I would like to make sure the property can never be sold. The cemetery limits the potential buyers to other religious groups and that’s exactly why I wouldn’t want the property ever sold. I don’t believe anyone with loved ones in our cemetery would want their loved ones in the yard behind the Fourth Evangelical Baptist Church of Trenton, for example. They are our Catholic dead interred in a Catholic cemetery. It should remain in Catholic hands. We need a plan that will keep the property useful for Catholic purposes. I’m not sure I expressed that in the best way, but I hope you took my meaning.

Lastly, please stop gossip mongering. It’s a sin. Stop listening to rumors. It’s foolish. If you want to know what’s going on, ask. My email address is still, fpghnls@gmail.com. Answering your real questions is far easier than trying to guess what they might be and writing those up in bulletin articles.

May God give you a spiritually fruitful Lent.

Fr. Paul