

As we are in this process of becoming one family, I wanted to take a moment and say a few things, especially because the second reading this weekend focuses in on a reality that the Church is made up of people, and many hearts and minds make unity a lofty goal.

First of all, thank you for all the people that are attending the new Mass schedule, thank you for sacrificing your convenience for your brothers and sisters. I know that this process is a lot of change, this past weekend I couldn't help but smile on the altar, as the sound of a full church at Christ the King made the *Our Father* truly reverberate off the walls!

Our second reading points to the reality that we are used to thinking about our faith, not as a universal worldwide Church, but the one place I will go on Sunday, the one pew I sit in, the one Mass time I attend. Whether it is because we are creatures of habit, or the memories inside those walls call to us, our faith must not become insular.

When I was pastor of Adam's County, there were a few stalwart parishioners that would never set foot in the other parish. Adam's county is less than 3% catholic by population, you would think that being a minority would get them over whatever fear or dislike of the other parish they carried. It was so bad they would not even do social things like a spaghetti dinner or watch a drive-in movie projected in the back field of the church. They had convinced themselves that their isolation was a good thing, and actually used it as insulation from reality.

Our second reading asks, are you Apollo's? are you Paul's? are we not all Christ's? the same question can be asked, are you Christ the King? are you St. Stephen? are you Holy Cross/Immaculata? are you St. Rose? or are you Christ's. I will work to ensure that each parish's cultural identity is preserved, but I need you to move beyond fear or anger and get ready to start working together. To that end we will be forming a pathways team in the next month with three representatives from each parish. Please prayerfully consider if this is something you would like to take on. It will consist of someone from staff, someone from parish council, and someone intimately involved in liturgy or ministry. The goal of the pathways team is to look at the road ahead and systematically start setting goals for the family to achieve.

May the Love, Peace and Grace of God be with you,  
Fr. Adam