

Protocol for Naming the Family of Parishes:

The *Plan for the Implementation of the Families of Parishes* calls for each family to select a name for itself. This name would designate the family as a whole; it would not, quite obviously, replace the canonical titles of the individual parishes or Catholic Communities within the family.

1. The name of the particular Family of Parishes should be selected early in the six-month preparatory period prior to the actual activation of the family.
2. The name cannot replicate the canonical title of any of the parishes in the family (e.g., the St. Peter Family of Parishes). Nor should it be a hyphenated name that groups the names of the parishes in the family (e.g., the St. Peter – Sacred Heart – St. Michael – Immaculate Conception Family of Parishes).
3. It is preferable that the name of the family not have a religious designation but, rather, refer to the geographic region or area where the parishes in the family are situated (e.g., the Chatham Family of Parishes, the Norfolk Family of Parishes, the West London Family of Parishes, the Bluewater Family of Parishes, etc.)
4. If there is a national community within the family, the chosen name needs to be translated into the particular language and appear alongside the name in English on all printed materials where the designation of the particular Family of Parishes appears (e.g., letterhead, signage, newsletters, Sunday Bulletin, etc.)
5. It will be for the Family of Parishes Transition Team to select possible names and to vet these with the parishioners in all the communities in the family. It may be that the Transition Team asks for feedback on a proposed name, or it may choose to have a vote on a name among the parishioners within the family. (It would be important to assure all that the canonical titles of the individual parishes and Catholic Communities will not disappear or be eliminated but maintained; that the new name is only a designation for the family as a whole.)
6. Once the particular name for the Family of Parishes is selected, it is to be forwarded to the bishop by the pastor of the family for his approval.
7. The Family of Parishes will thereafter be listed in the *Diocesan Directory* and on the diocesan website by the family name, with the names of the individual parishes and Catholic Communities listed beneath that name.

By its union with Christ, the People of the New Covenant, far from closing in upon itself, becomes a “sacrament” for humanity, (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 1) a sign and instrument of the salvation achieved by Christ, the light of the world and the salt of the earth (cf. *Mt* 5:13-16), for the redemption of all (*ibid.*, 9) The Church's mission stands in continuity with the mission of Christ: “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you” (*Jn* 20:21). From the perpetuation of the sacrifice of the Cross and her communion with the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist, the Church draws the spiritual power needed to carry out her mission. The Eucharist thus appears as both *the source* and *the summit* of all evangelization, since its goal is the communion of mankind with Christ and in him with the Father and the Holy Spirit (cf. *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 5 and 6).
Saint Pope John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* 22