

# Transition Team Update

The Transition Team of St. Clare of Montefalco and St. Philomena has been meeting about twice a month for the past several months to consider the best ways for the parishes to collaborate with their pastor, Fr. Andrew. Over the next weeks and months both parish bulletins will include Questions and Answers to keep everyone informed about the meetings, discussions about the survey that was conducted, and the plans for Town Hall meetings at both parishes on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Q: A number of questions have been raised about St. Philomena's property – buildings, contents, and finances.

A. The short answer is that **NOTHING** has changed. Canon law does not allow for sale of buildings or property unless a parish requests, and our Archbishop agrees, to close (suppress) or merge a parish with another, and no such decision has been made.

Q: What is a cluster and what is a merger?

A. **A Cluster** is two or more parishes who share a pastor, but maintain independent finances, Parish and Finance councils. **Merger** occurs when two or more parishes come together to form one new parish, keeping all churches open for worship, or closing one or more churches.

Q: St. Philomena was blessed with many visiting priests to celebrate Mass. Will this continue?

A. So that the Pastor, Fr. Andrew, is able to be present at both of his parishes, it will depend on the Mass Schedule rotation and Fr. Andrew's availability. The Schedule will be printed in both bulletins. Visiting presiders at both parishes will hopefully include, as in the past, Bp. Gumbleton, Fr. Luedtke and several Capuchin Friars. Fr. Worthy has decided that he will no longer celebrate Mass at St. Philomena or St. Clare on a regular basis.