

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On this Day of Pentecost, we celebrate the birth of the Church—when a powerful rushing wind and tongues of fire brought diverse believers together into one unified body. It's amazing to look back at how the Holy Spirit completely changed the disciples. They started out as a broken, terrified group hiding in a room, but they became a bold, unified force that nothing could stop. The Spirit swept through that day, dissolving the walls of language and culture to breathe new life into the early Church, uniting them to march forward on mission together.

This year, the story of Pentecost is unfolding as a living reality right before our eyes. For the past few months, our leadership teams from both Our Lady of Grace and Transfiguration have been coming together, praying, seeking wise advice, and really trying to listen to where the Holy Spirit is leading us. What we realized is that even though we are two different communities, we share the exact same heart and mission: to show the world the love of Jesus. It makes me think of what the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians—that we are all one body and one Spirit. By letting go of our own separate ways of doing things and bringing our resources, gifts, and passions together, we are building a much stronger, more vibrant church family to serve everyone around us.

This decision is not only a response to a crisis, but a faithful step into an exciting future. As we have prayed and sought God's direction, it became overwhelmingly clear that we can accomplish far more together than we ever could apart. By combining our resources, our gifts, and our hearts, we are choosing to lay down our individual preferences for the sake of the Gospel. We are not just surviving; we are stepping into a vibrant new season of expanded ministry, deeper community impact, and renewed spiritual vitality here in Castro Valley.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue to hold joint meetings to walk through this transition together. You will be actively involved in shaping our new shared identity, including our combined Mass schedules, liturgy committees, parish councils, and community ministries. Change is messy, and it will require patience and charity from all of us. But the Holy Spirit is the author of new beginnings. I ask you to open your hearts to this new chapter and pray for the grace to see that God is preparing something beautiful for us.

If you have any quick questions or want to help out with the transition teams, just reach out to me or the parish office. You can also get in touch with the diocese directly about the Mission Alignment Process (MAP) using the contact info below:

Mission Alignment Process  
510-628-2167  
[map@oakdiocese.org](mailto:map@oakdiocese.org)  
<https://www.oakdiocese.org/map>

***“Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.”***

Fr. Luke