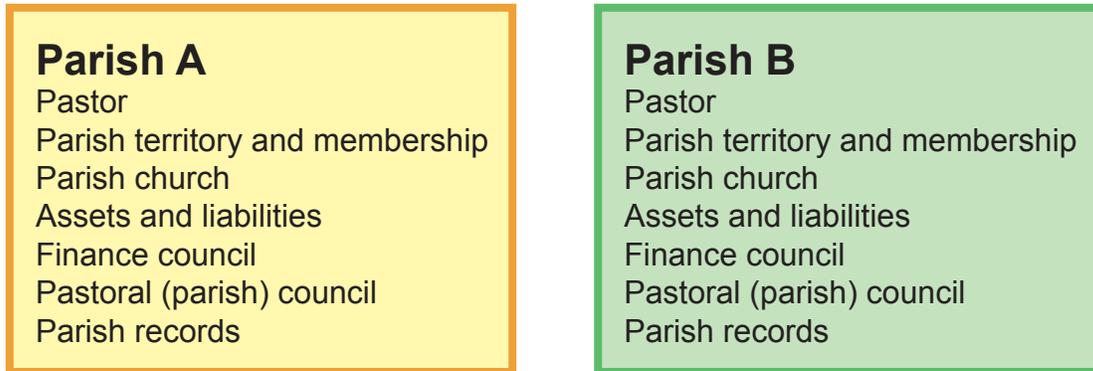


What happens when parishes are merged?

When two parishes are merged, the two parishes (Parish A and Parish B) no longer exist as separate and distinct parishes. Instead, the communities of the faithful are joined together. In the model below, Parish A is merged into Parish B, resulting in a newly enlarged Parish B. Everything is merged together into Parish B, a pastor will be appointed (or possibly reappointed) by the Bishop, and the pastoral (parish) council and finance council are newly constituted to reflect the larger combined parish membership.

BEFORE THE MERGER:



DURING THE MERGER:

The Bishop will appoint or confirm the pastor of the newly combined parish community.

Parish church A becomes a secondary church. If Sunday and Holy Day Masses are permitted, it will have mission status (i.e., it will be a secondary mission church). Parish church B remains a parish church, with Sunday and Holy Day Masses.

The territory and membership, assets and liabilities, and parish records of Parish A and Parish B are combined. The parish councils and finance councils of both parishes will be disbanded, and new councils will be constituted to reflect the combined and enlarged parish membership.

AFTER THE MERGER:



What happens when parishes are partnered?

The partnered parishes (Parish A and Parish B) continue to be separate and distinct parishes. For this reason, each parish continues to have its own parish church with Sunday and Holy Day Masses, its own assets and liabilities, and its own finance council.

The parishes will share several things, however. They will share a pastor, a single office, a single staff, and a single newly constituted pastoral (parish) council made up of parishioners from both parishes.

Parish A retains

Parish church
Territory and membership
Assets and liabilities
Finance council
Parish records

Parish B retains

Parish church
Territory and membership
Assets and liabilities
Finance council
Parish records

A single shared pastor
A single shared office
A single shared staff
A single shared newly constituted pastoral council
A single shared mission and ministry