

## [6/29] Toward Becoming One Parish (IV)

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We have been discussing how our joint pastoral councils have identified Pillars of Unity to help us focus our discussions about becoming one parish. You may have recalled from previous columns that the four marks of the Church (from the Nicene Creed) were used to help us categorize our efforts. Let us look at those helped us categorize potential Pillars of Unity in greater detail.

### **One:**

helps our community to have *communion* (broadly defined) with each other  
helps us have *communion* (broadly defined) with the local Church (diocese)

### **Holy:**

helps individual members of our community to fulfill their vocation to holiness  
grow in Christlike-ness: love & serve the Lord & be happy with Him forever in heaven

### **Catholic:**

dictionary: universal. Adjective to distinguish from other Christians.  
helps our community to know what Christ taught and what the Church teaches  
fosters *communion* (broadly defined) with the universal Church

### **Apostolic:**

Apostle: one who is sent  
sent forth from our community to spread the Gospel or help those in need

### **Other:**

doesn't seem to fit into any other category

We have already identified that there is a tension between Music and Liturgy as two Pillars of Unity. The first, Music, categorized under Holy, seems to suggest an opportunity to "be all things to all people," that our larger size as one parish may help us accommodate different preferences at different Masses. The second, Liturgy, categorized under One, seems to suggest an openness to predictability, that our parishioners should be able to attend Mass at any of our churches and have a substantially similar experience.

This doesn't somehow make the process we are in "wrong" or "hopeless," but speaks to the importance of talking about topics in advance with the help those responsible for them, to help us make sure we do the best we can to get it right.