

June 5, 2009

Fr. Marie-Elie Haby
Fr. Edward Zaorski
Southwest Vicariate



Dear Co-Vicars,

In February you and representatives from the Southwest Vicariate Pastoral Council met with a member of the Tracking Committee to discuss your progress in the Together In Faith planning process. Each Tracking Committee member then wrote a summary of their meetings, which was sent to the entire committee. We discussed all of the vicariates at our May meeting and identified specific items that we would like each vicariate to address, and some issues that affect all vicariates.

We want to recognize the collaborative efforts between and among parishes in the areas of Outreach Services, Religious Education, several Sacramental Preparation programs in both English and Spanish, Young Adult and Family Ministry, and Communication. At our February meeting it was stated that the goals set at the beginning of the Together In Faith planning process seem to have been accomplished. We encourage you to ensure that every parish has two representatives to the Southwest Vicariate Pastoral Council, and that the VPC meet monthly to identify areas of collaboration that can be supported by all parishes in the vicariate. A detailed budget should also be developed in support of your plans. In these extremely challenging economic times it is important that the vicariate also develop a collaborative plan which includes ways to support Catholic Schools in addition to financial support by December 2009. After speaking with the Director of Finance and Administration, we understand a plan has been proposed to better monitor and respond to plant management issues. Has the vicariate done an assessment of necessary future capital improvements for all buildings? We also understand that the VPC representatives feel that the pastors need more support by the Archdiocese of Detroit. Has a formal request outlining these areas been submitted to the regional bishop?

Finally, we note that the cluster of All Saints and SS. Andrew and Benedict has been dissolved. Since every parish in the vicariate needs to identify another parish with which they will cluster or collaborate with, particularly in the event of the retirement, illness or reassignment of a pastor, please submit a complete list of parishes and their cluster or collaboration partners by Fall 2009.

We thank you for your commitment to the Together In Faith process and continuing to collaborate for more effective ministry in support of the parishes, schools and institutions within the vicariate. Please share this information with the vicariate pastoral council, and be prepared to provide the Tracking Committee with an update by Fall 2009.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Miller
Chair, Archdiocesan Tracking Committee

cc: Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron
Bishop Daniel Flores