

June 5, 2009

Fr. Patrick Connell  
Our Lady of La Salette Parish  
2600 Harvard Road  
Berkley, MI 48072-1597



Dear Fr. Connell,

In February you and representatives from the Southeast Oakland 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.

Since your original Together In Faith plan was submitted in 2006, your vicariate has talked about collaborating and possibly merging with the Birmingham/Bloomfield/Troy Vicariate. We know that some ministries are already collaborating, in particular with Young Adults, Youth and Outreach Services. The Tracking Committee believes the time has come for these vicariates to merge, by July 2009. In addition, we ask that the cluster of St. Alan and St. Columban conduct an evaluation by Fall 2009, to assess the cluster relationship, and its future. The new vicariate website will improve communication between and among parishes. In these extremely challenging economic times it is important that the vicariate develop a collaborative plan which includes ways to financially support Catholic Schools by December 2009. Finally, although several of the parishes in your vicariate are large, every parish in the newly merged vicariate will need 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.

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  
Msgr. John Zenz