

June 5, 2009

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin
St. Joan of Arc Parish
22412 Overlake Drive
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080-2454



Dear Msgr. Bugarin,

In March you and representatives from the SERF 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.

In particular, in response to your letter dated December 4, 2008, we have asked that the appropriate sections of the Together In Faith original plan and Implementation Plan be amended as you requested. We also note the updates regarding changes to several cluster relationships, in particular Our Lady of Grace with St. Cletus, St. Donald, and Our Lady Queen of All Saints. We want to recognize the often challenging work done by St. Germaine and St. Gertrude as they planned their merger. We were very interested and encouraged to hear about the possible merger of St. Isaac Jogues, St. Joan of Arc and St. Lucy, and the possibilities this model could support. As every parish in the vicariate needs to identify another parish with which they will cluster or collaborate with in some way, particularly in the event of the retirement, illness or reassignment of a pastor, please submit a complete list of all parishes and their Cluster or Affiliate partners by Fall, 2009.

While most of your update dealt with corrections and the strategic partnerships among parishes, we also want to recognize the pastors with schools, and their efforts to collaboration in support of Catholic Schools. 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, we encourage you to again look at possible programmatic collaboration in areas such as Youth, Young Adult, Faith Formation, Christian Service/Justice and Peace, Stewardship, Evangelization, etc.

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