

March 28, 2006

Reverend Wayne Ureel  
Thumb Vicariate  
St. Cornelius Parish  
3834 N. Mill Street  
Dryden, MI 48428-0208

Dear Father Ureel:

By means of this letter, I am formally endorsing your Vicariate Plan as submitted and revised by the Coordinating Committee with the following notations.

I want to commend you and the Pastors, Pastoral Staff, and Parish Pastoral Councils for your thoroughness in completing the Parish Evaluation Inventories (PEI). These documents provided me with a very clear understanding of the strengths and challenges facing our parishes. The PEI's provided the Vicariate Pastoral Councils invaluable input for drafting the Together in Faith Plans, which enabled the Coordinating Committee to affirm the uniqueness of each vicariate and multiple strategies for implementation. There are many common themes that have emerged in these plans that will be addressed not only at the local level, but by the Archdiocese as a whole.

Your Vicariate has unique challenges because of the great distance between most parishes. You have created a realistic collaborative plan which addresses the needs of your parishes; I commend your plan.

In particular I want to recognize and approve the following:

- I support the team ministry approach your Vicariate has developed, and the administrative and education sites between clustered churches, particularly the plans for training of volunteers to conduct RCIA programs, minister to youth, the homebound, prisons, migrant camps, and those who are grieving.
- I encourage the Vicariate to integrate the Hispanic Pastoral Plan into its Vicariate plan as it expands outreach to the Hispanic/Latino Community.

- I agree that several parishes may need to expand their facilities in the future, as funds are available.
- I encourage the Vicariate to work with the Vocations Office to provide local retreats, integrating youth for sacramental and social activities.
- By March 2007 the vicariate will submit plans for St. Patrick Mission in Clifford.

While this phase of Together In Faith has ended, the Tracking Committee will continue the process of dialogue with vicariates and will be monitoring the implementation of the above Plan.

Finally, I especially want to thank you, Father Ureel, for your work with the Vicariate Pastoral Council to bring this part of the process to a successful conclusion. With your continued support and assistance we can move forward with confidence on this journey together.”

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Adam Cardinal Maida  
Archbishop of Detroit