

God's Love Endures forever

You state in your plan that you "recommend that currently existing CD's or savings in each current parish be designated as funds to support that local community as long as it is open." While I am not entirely sure of your intent with this statement, I hope that you recognize that "supporting that local community" does not mean focusing solely on maintenance and upkeep of buildings but also includes

Your plan for future weekend worship and a reduced number of worship sites is realistic and provides a path toward continued and enhanced ministry within the parish and beyond it into the local towns and villages. It will be important for the People Team from St. Mary and St. Theresa to work with one another and Fr. Ring in trust, faith, and charity to share needs, to gather information, and eventually--through prayer and discernment--to arrive at the most appropriate third site for the new parish.

I accept your recommendation that the six parishes of St. Andrew, St. Januarius, St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Patrick, and St. Michael be consolidated into a single parish under church and civil law. Karen Rinefierd will coordinate the beginning of this process with Fr. Daniel Condon, diocesan Chancellor, and Fr. Ring before he leaves for his sabbatical. Karen will also work with Fr. Ring, Fr. Mark Brewer, your interim Parochial Administrator, and your current pastoral council chairpersons to develop a covenant for your new pastoral council beginning its existence this summer. Your recommendation for beginning a single finance council in 2007 is appropriate.

At the beginning of your plan you list the constraints within which you planned. While some derive directly from either universal church law or the parameters I placed upon planning groups in this second phase of Pastoral Planning for the New Millennium, you also identify local realities and situate your planning within the context of an insufficient number of priests to minister within Catholic communities worldwide. Although we in the United States are in the midst of significant changes in parish structure and in the roles of priests within and among communities, you are correct that, compared to most of the rest of the world, very few places are as blessed as we are.

Thank you for your leadership in the development of the faith-filled and courageous pastoral plan recently submitted to me by the six parishes of Our Lady of the Lakes. Please extend my heartfelt gratitude to the members of the planning team, Fr. Ring, and pastoral council members for their considerable work and willingness to face challenging realities unflinchingly with hope in God's abiding presence.

Ms. Carleen F. Pierce
4213 South St.
Stanley, NY 14561

Dear Carleen:

Bishop's Office



DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
1150 Buffalo Road · Rochester, NY 14624-1890
(585) 328-3210 · FAX (585) 328-3149

June 28 2006