

faith formation, social ministry, staff salaries, and all the other expenses associated with a vibrant parish. Diocesan personnel may be of assistance in helping you to reach your goals through investment policies and the creation of annual budgets. Your new pastoral council and finance council will have particular roles—as noted in your designation of their specific responsibilities—in determining pastoral priorities within the new parish and prioritizing capital projects and other expenditures. Your section on “A Catholic Presence throughout our Parish” demonstrates your understanding that, when a church building closes, the community and the need for local ministry does not disappear.

Your proposed staffing and your differentiation of parish-wide and site-specific committees are sound. I expect that these will evolve over time and with additional experience. Committees like your proposed Care of the People Team have been quite valuable in other planning groups within our diocese where parish leaders and parishioners at individual churches need to communicate very well with one another, manage significant change, and balance local needs with those of the larger parish. As part of the responsibilities of the Care of the People Teams in churches where change seems most difficult, you may want to consider having regular listening sessions after Masses or other face-to-face opportunities for two-way communication and mutual support.

I appreciate your plan to make the integration of St. Michael’s School into the new parish a priority. The diocesan Catholic Schools Department and the Office of Pastoral Planning can assist in your efforts. Your ministry with the Catholic students and staff of Keuka College continues to be important and is recognized in your plan.

While I did not specifically ask you to address ministry with local Catholic migrant workers in your second pastoral plan, I expect that you will continue to support the local ministry shared with the Geneva parishes and led by Xochitl Palacios as well as to create new opportunities to involve your parish in this critical Catholic ministry.

This pastoral plan was finalized and affirmed by your three pastoral councils on May 11th. I now add my approval and look forward to its implementation. Karen Rinefierd will continue as Planning Group Liaison to assist you. You will be in my prayers as you continue this journey of faith and hope together.

With every good wish, I remain,

Your brother in Christ,



†Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

Copies: Rev. Robert Ring
Ms. Karen Rinefierd