



*Bishop's Office*

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER  
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*To be read from the pulpit at weekend Masses May 29/30, 2010*

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As you know, several weeks ago I received the final recommendations of the Irondequoit Pastoral Planning Group concerning the future of the Irondequoit parishes.

In accordance with the law of the Church, I met with the diocesan Presbyteral Council about these recommendations, asking for the priests' wise counsel. Subsequently, I met with the three pastors of the Catholic churches in Irondequoit to discuss the recommendations further, seeking their advice given their intimate knowledge of the local circumstances.

As a result of these consultations, and after much prayer and deliberation, I will accept the recommendations of the Irondequoit Pastoral Planning Group as presented to me, moving ahead with the plan to consolidate the existing Irondequoit parishes into one new parish covering the territory within all the old parish boundaries.

I have asked Father Norman Tanck, CSB, to lead the pastoral team for this new parish, which will include, among others, the priestly ministry of Father Tim Horan and Father William Leone.

As you might imagine, the process to implement this plan will be complex. The precise timetable will require additional consultation by appropriate bodies. Each important step will be communicated to you as the plan unfolds.

For many of you, this significant change will be viewed as a journey of hope taken together to build a stronger, more vibrant Catholic community in Irondequoit. For others, my decision may cause some disappointment, hurt or even anger. I pray that those who disagree with my decision will understand that it was not made lightly or without firm and compelling reasons.

As you move forward in Irondequoit, I pray that God will continue to bless your work and ministry and that you may feel the enduring love of Jesus Christ always.

Your brother in Christ,

† Matthew H. Clark  
Bishop of Rochester