

June 5, 2009

Fr. Ronald Milligan
St. Ephrem Parish
38900 Dodge Park Rd
Sterling Heights, MI 48312-1322



Dear Fr. Milligan,

In March you and representatives from the Central Macomb 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.

We want to commend the successful Young Adult Ministry program jointly sponsored with the North Macomb Vicariate. We hope that even more young adults and parishes participate in the coming year, and ask that you consider a stronger theological content for this ministry. We know there have been efforts in the past to also collaborate with North Macomb Vicariate in the area of Adult Formation, and recommend you consider using "*Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*" or a similar program to refocus on this area. We also recognize that, in these extremely challenging economic times it is important that the vicariate develop ways to financially support Catholic Schools by December 2009. The pastors, leadership and parishioners of St. Valerie and St. Louis are to be commended for the difficult but successful merging of the two communities, and we look forward to hearing how the process continues. Although several of the parishes in your vicariate are very large, every parish in the vicariate will need to identify another parish with which they will cluster or collaborate with, particularly in the event of the retirement, illness or reassignment of a pastor. Please submit a complete list by Fall, 2009. Finally we are pleased to hear of the focus on sharing time, talents and treasure and look forward to hearing how you continue to support lay ecclesial ministers as outlined in the Mission Possible program.

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
Monsignor John Zenz