

June 5, 2009

Fr. Joseph Mallia  
St. Frances Cabrini Parish  
9000 Laurence  
Allen Park, MI 48101-1598



Dear Fr. Mallia,

In February you and representatives from the Downriver 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 work of the Youth, Young Adult, Faith Formation, Christian Service/Justice and Peace, Stewardship and Evangelization Committees, and their detailed plans and budgets to respond collaboratively to identified needs. We look forward to receiving an update as you reevaluate goals and plan for the future. We were impressed to hear of the two assemblies which defined the role of the vicariate pastoral council, development of a Career Transition Ministry and the need for a plan for Catholic Schools. In these extremely challenging economic times it is important that the vicariate develop a collaborative plan which includes ways to financially support Catholic Schools by December 2009. Bishop Flores has indicated his desire to meet with many of the vicariate pastoral councils to brainstorm different ways each can respond to the needs of the growing Hispanic community in the Archdiocese of Detroit. This session should be scheduled by Fall 2009. The pastors, leadership and parishioners of St. Hugh and St. Frances Cabrini are to be commended for the successful merging of the two communities, and we look forward to hearing how the process continues, and how the new St. Mary Magdalene community continues to thrive. Every parish in the vicariate needs 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. St. Pius, St. Mary Magdalene, Our Lady of the Angels and the five parishes in Wyandotte should provide an update by Fall, 2009.

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  
Bishop Francis Reiss