

June 5, 2009

Fr. Christopher Maus  
St. Daniel Parish  
7010 Valley Park Drive  
Clarkston, MI 48346-1358



Dear Fr. Maus,

In March you and representatives from the Lakes 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.

Despite being one of the largest vicariates geographically, the Vicariate of the Lakes parishes are to be commended for collaborating in several areas. We look forward to updates on the efforts to promote use of the Stewardship program, best practices that may emerge from parish evangelization efforts and “green” parish practices to encourage parishes to be environmentally conscious and energy efficient. We commend your efforts to offer topics and pre-theology classes at a central location. In these extremely challenging economic times it is important that the vicariate develop a collaborative plan to support Catholic Schools by December 2009, in addition to a shared marketing plan. We encourage you as vicar to confirm that the catechists at Everest Academy and Regnum Christi are certified in compliance with diocesan policy. 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.

Finally, although several of the parishes in your vicariate are large, every parish in the vicariate will need to identify another parish with which they will cluster or collaborate with in some way, particularly in the event of the retirement, illness or reassignment of a pastor. Please submit a complete list 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  
Msgr. John Zenz