

St. Philomena Catholic Church

1301 North Market Street, Monticello, IL 61856

217-762-2566

Rev. Bruce D. Lopez, Pastor

December 8, 2011

Dear Parishioners of St. Philomena & St. Michael,

Today, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the angel Gabriel announces that Mary is with child, Jesus Christ who will bring the wonderful news of salvation. Growing in our faith always involves a change as we deepen our love and trust in Jesus Christ.

A development has occurred in Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) and my purpose is to keep you informed. The Diocese of Peoria clustered the following parishes: St. Philomena, Monticello; St. Michael, Bement; and St. Joseph, Ivesdale.

So what's next? Meetings are scheduled between the Cluster Core Team of each of the three above parishes which consists of two pastors and 12 members.

St. Philomena

Ann Wildman (762-7992)
Hayley Feeney (621-3853)
Louie Stoerger (669-2148)
Carol Stiverson (762-9654)

St. Michael

Evelyn Dick (678-4021)
Bev Becker (678-8482)
Helen Ayers (678-8478)
Steve Walsh (678-4751)

Meetings and paperwork will consume these three groups as their purpose is to basically ask two questions: "What might our future look like?" and "Which of the four models proposed by the Diocese will help us to get there?"

Together, these three Core groups will seek to reach a consensus for their preferred model for the future. We, the Cluster Team, will make suggestions with a rationale to the 21 member Planning Commission for the Diocese of Peoria on March 2, 2012. Then, the Cluster Team will await and discuss the Planning Commission's preliminary recommendations. The parish will continue to ask for your input.

It is my sincere hope to keep you informed through the parish bulletin, on the parish web site, and announcements at Mass. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the above members or myself with any questions, comments or concerns you may have concerning the future of our cluster parishes.

Pray that the Holy Spirit keeps our minds and hearts open to His will and to accept during this time of discernment the wisdom of God.

In the Peace of Jesus the Christ,



Rev. Bruce D. Lopez
Pastor

G I F T
GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER:
PASTORAL PLANNING FOR THE
DIOCESE OF PEORIA

EIGHT STEP PARISH RESTRUCTURING PROCESS

In order for a parish restructuring process to be successful throughout an entire diocese leading to the merging, linking or partnering of parishes and possibly to the appointment of a leadership team in accord with Canon Law, many steps are required in a specific order. These include:

- STEP #1 – Conversion** at the Diocesan, Parish and Cluster level. Parish Core Teams and Cluster Teams meet to evaluate their current situation and plan their preferred future.
- STEP #2 – Suggestion** of a particular Model by each Cluster Team (Consolidated, Linked, Partnership, In Solidum/Team, with a rationale to the Diocesan Planning Commission.)
- STEP #3 – Preliminary Recommendations** of the Diocesan Planning Commission with a rationale back to Cluster of Parishes
- STEP #4 – Conversation** about the recommendation at the Cluster level.
- STEP #5 – Response** to the Diocesan Planning Commission about a particular Model with a rationale by the Cluster Team.
- STEP #6 – Final Recommendations** of the Diocesan Planning Commission with a rationale sent to the Bishop.
- STEP #7 – Decisions** by the Bishop after appropriate consultation based on the Final Recommendations made to him by the Diocesan Planning Commission.
- STEP #8 – Implementation** at the parish, cluster and diocesan level of all decisions made by the Bishop.

We are currently on Step #2.