

## Cluster 28 Transition Committee

One of the issues we will begin considering at our upcoming meeting this week is how to plan effectively for the ongoing pastoral needs of our cluster community. Beyond the pragmatic issues (such as how the cluster will conduct its financial business and maintain its property) lies the most important part of our life as Church: our care of each other, by which we assure that all grow and flourish in life and in faith. The Church should be intimately involved in the many cycles of our lives – births, baptisms, education, marriages, sicknesses, deaths – to name just a few of the more important ones; and since Vatican II, we have been called as a community – clergy, sisters and laity – to be ministers to each other as part and parcel of our participation in the priesthood of Christ. With diminishing numbers of clergy and religious, it is all the more important that we continue working together to meet this central mission of our community to care for each other.

Other clusters in our diocese have formed an *Office of Pastoral Life* (with a pastoral coordinator) as a companion to the cluster business office. We are exploring these models and looking at how best to address the pastoral challenges of our own cluster. Such an office might attend to such pragmatic things as the scheduling/training of liturgical ministers and the preparation of the bulletin. But there is also a need for coordinated oversight of liturgical and sacramental preparation, wedding and funeral planning, as well as care for the sick and shut-ins of our community. Additionally, we will be considering the existing religious education and RCIA programs to see how they might fit under this umbrella, especially in partnership with St. Brigid. We have much to think about in this regard.

As always, we pledge to communicate with you in a regular and transparent manner about our planning. We will utilize the bulletin, school news notes/letter, and websites as the first means of this communication. If at any time you have input you wish to share, please feel free to speak with one of the committee members – you can call your parish or school office for contact information. Please continue to keep us and this process in your prayers.