

*Saint Brigid Parish, Blessed Sacrament Parish,
and Assumption BVM Parish*

April 25, 2005

Dear Parishioners of Saint Brigid Parish, Blessed Sacrament Parish, and Assumption BVM Parish,

We wish to extend to you the Easter greetings of the Risen Lord. As our three communities anticipate the coming of Pentecost we want to update you on how the Spirit is moving among us in the Midland Catholic Cluster Project.

On Saturday April 16th, our communities took another important step forward in the Midland Catholic Cluster Project. Over 70 parishioners from the three parishes spent the morning reviewing 21 proposals developed by the task forces in the areas of Liturgy/Sacramental Ministry, Vocations/Priest Shortage, and Shared Resources. These proposals were in turn the product of several months of listening and work on the part of dozens of parishioners.

Those who gathered on April 16th provided invaluable input and we will be working over the coming weeks to transcribe and tabulate their comments so that they can be shared with the entire parish community.

We are also aware that there are many who would have liked to attend the April 16th gathering but could not because their schedules would not permit it. For this reason we are making the proposals available to all parishioners for feedback. You can access them online at www.midlandcatholics.org or at the parish offices during normal business hours, Monday-Friday. We ask that you submit your feedback in writing by May 15th.

On April 7th, the three of us (along with the other members of the process team that have been facilitating this process) met with Bishop Carlson, who encouraged us in the work of the Midland Catholic Cluster Project. While Bishop Carlson's focus is on vocations, he is aware that we need to plan for the scenario that may see us having only two priests for a period of time. He also encouraged us to continue to plan on ways to combine parish services and to look at ways together that we can do outreach and evangelization, especially to Catholics who no longer pray and walk with us. These are certainly things that together we have been and will continue to look at.

In the coming weeks we will provide a summary of all the input gathered on the proposals, as well as information about the next steps in the process.

On behalf of Fr. Jim who continues his recovery from recent surgery, we remain prayerfully your pastors,

Fr. Peter J. Gaspeny
Blessed Sacrament Parish

Fr. Richard M. Filary
Assumption BVM Parish