

***Saint Brigid Parish, Blessed Sacrament Parish,  
and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish***

August 2, 2005

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

We hope this summer has been peaceful and relaxing for you.

We have studied all the input from the April Gathering in which parishioners indicated their support for 21 proposals regarding the Midland Catholic Clustering Project. These proposals represented the culmination of a process that began in September and October 2004 with the Fall Gatherings at Valley Plaza and continued through the winter with the work of task forces on Liturgy and Sacramental Ministry, Priest Shortage and Vocations, and Shared Resources among our three parishes.

After careful study and prayer, as well taking into account the vision of Bishop Carlson, we have reached our decisions regarding the proposals in these areas. A summary of these decisions is listed on the next page. As you can see, some have an immediate impact; others will be implemented over time.

In addition, our Midland Catholic Clustering Project continues to move forward. In the fall of 2005 we will create task forces on Youth Faith Formation, Catholic Schools, and Adult Faith Formation. As was the case for the Spring proposals, each task force will have a team of two co-chairs who will be responsible for creating several proposals based on the input from the 2004 Fall Gatherings, and further input from parishioners in listening sessions to be held in the Fall of 2005. The dates and locations for the three Fall 2005 listening sessions are given below. Since the purpose of the listening sessions is for us to LISTEN to the people, any Midland Catholic may attend any session and offer input on the specific topic of discussion. At the end of each session there will be an opportunity to join the task force and assist the co-chairs in developing proposals for our consideration.

The dates and locations for the first three listening sessions are:

October 6	Youth Faith Formation -- Blessed Sacrament, 7:30-9:00pm
October 13	Catholic Schools – Assumption, 7:30-9:00pm
October 20	Adult Faith Formation – St. Brigid, 7:30-9:00pm

Room locations for the meetings will be announced in the parish bulletins in September. As always, all information regarding the Midland Catholic Clustering Project will be posted at [www.midlandcatholics.org](http://www.midlandcatholics.org) and will be available in parish offices.

Lastly, we wish to express our appreciation to all Midland Catholics for having walked the journey this far with us. We look forward to continuing to walk this path together with you all.

Prayerfully, your pastors,

Fr. James Wm. Bessert  
Saint Brigid Parish

Fr. Peter J. Gaspeny  
Blessed Sacrament Parish

Fr. Richard M. Filary  
Assumption Parish