

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

November 6, 2006

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

Having just celebrated the liturgies of All Saints and All Souls, we are reminded of that communion, or common-union, we have with those who have gone before us and with one another. It is mindful of that common-union we have with one another that we once again are writing to all of you.

We last wrote in April 2006 concerning the conclusion of the formal cluster consultation process, the proposals generated from the process, and a movement to implementing those various proposals from listening sessions on Liturgy and Sacraments, Priest Shortage/Vocations, Shared Resources, Catholic Schools, Youth Faith Formation, and Adult Faith Formation.

Prior to that in September 2005, we wrote to share with you a changed weekend Mass schedule that included a Sunday 5:30pm Mass at Saint Brigid in response to a proposal from the earlier listening session on Liturgy and Sacraments. We said we would look at the overall attendance patterns for one year and, keeping Bishop Carlson's suggestion that we "plan our liturgical life to serve as many as possible" in mind, consider any other schedule changes.

As of the weekend of December 2-3, we will move to a Mass schedule that will see our cluster offer two Saturday Masses at differing times and six Sunday Masses all at differing times so as to "serve as many as possible." Included with this letter is a card that summarizes our new Mass schedule. We encourage you to post this card in a place where you will see it often.

Secondly, we wish to let you know that in response to a proposal from the listening session on Catholic Schools, in consultation with the Diocesan Department of Education, we have contracted with Educational Strategies, Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland. They will assist us in carrying out this comprehensive professional feasibility study. This work is now in its initial stages.

As we look to the end of November, the end of this present Liturgical Year, and the beginning of the new Liturgical Year of Grace, we look forward to continuing to walk this path with you together in common-union.

Prayerfully, your pastors,

Fr. James W. Bessert
Saint Brigid Parish

Fr. Peter J. Gaspeny
Blessed Sacrament Parish

Fr. Richard M. Filary
Assumption BVM Parish