

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

April 20, 2003

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

It is our joy to wish you and your loved ones the Peace of the Risen Lord on this Easter Day. May the days of this Easter Season continue to bring you peace and blessing.

In February we wrote to you about the reality of the "shortage of priests." We spoke about the need to look at several parishes having their spiritual needs met by one or two priests. We spoke about the very real possibility of having only two priests to serve our three parishes. We want you to know what has happened since February.

- First, we sent a letter to Bishop Untener and the diocesan Task Force on Pastoral Ministry stating that we believe that two priests could meet the sacramental needs of the three parishes. We stated that we believe this was reasonable as well as practical and workable with all of the details needing to be worked out.
- Second, we met together with two other representatives from each parish to look at how to proceed. A meeting followed at which Sr. Janet Fulgenzi, a diocesan staff person, shared information with all of us concerning how parishes are presently working together and sharing priests.
- Third, the group decided that the next step should be a meeting of our three parish staffs, councils, and commission members together. We have scheduled this gathering for early May. Sr. Janet will again be present to share with all of us and to facilitate a discussion of our concerns at this point in time. This gathering will also provide us with the opportunity to talk about some ways of hearing from all of the parish members as part of the next step in this process.

Once again, we wanted you to know what is happening firsthand from us. We will continue to keep everyone informed as together we work toward meeting the spiritual and sacramental needs of everyone with fewer priests.

In these early days of the Easter Season, may we continue to pray for our parish communities and our diocese, knowing that we are filled with the Spirit of the Risen Lord!

Prayerfully, your pastors,

Fr. James W. Bessert
Saint Brigid Parish

Fr. Peter J. Gaspeny
Blessed Sacrament Parish

Fr. Richard M. Filary
Assumption BVM Parish