

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

June 14, 2004

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

We are writing to provide an update on the Midland Catholic Clustering Project. As you recall, this project is an effort to provide multiple opportunities for parishioners to offer input on how two priests can best meet the sacramental and ministerial needs of the three Midland-area Catholic parishes.

Last month forms were distributed at Masses and by mail asking parishioners to estimate the number of people from their household that will attend one of the two fall gatherings that will kick off the project (Sunday, September 19th, and Sunday, October 24th).

The response was extremely positive. Over 1000 parishioners from the three parishes indicated a willingness to attend the gatherings. We are very heartened by this tremendous response. Such a turnout would be one of the largest gatherings of Midland Catholics ever, and would ensure that the days will be both vibrant and energetic.

Some parishioners have expressed curiosity about the format of the gatherings. Be assured that they are designed to provide the maximum participation possible. Parishioners from the three parishes will have the opportunity to meet one another, to identify issues of concern, and to tell us what they want for the future of the Midland Catholic Community. And, of course, to come together as one community in prayer.

We have selected Valley Plaza Resort as the site for both gatherings. In August we will conduct a formal registration process and provide more detailed information about Valley Plaza and the gatherings. All information relevant to the cluster process will be posted at www.midlandcatholics.org.

We welcome your input and suggestions. Please keep the Midland Catholic Community in your prayers this summer. And know that we keep you in ours.

Prayerfully, your pastors,

Fr. James Wm. Bessert
Saint Brigid Parish

Fr. Peter J. Gaspeny
Blessed Sacrament Parish

Fr. Richard M. Filary
Assumption Parish