

Update on Pastoral Planning Area (PPA) 110

Pastors and Representatives from each of the six parishes in our pastoral planning area (PPA 110) held their first meeting on October 23, 2013. All present have faith and trust in the Lord to guide them. All possess a commitment to help form a new, stronger, more vibrant Church.

The purpose of this first meeting was three-fold:

- **to have the pastors and their parish representatives get to know one another**
- **to review the overall PPA process**
- **to have them share their questions and concerns regarding the process leading to more viable and sustainable Parishes**

The Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Commission (ASPC) recommends that the following six Parishes be merged to form three parishes: Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Grace, Queen of the Universe, Saint Frances Cabrini, Saint Joseph the Worker, Saint Michael the Archangel.

Statistics from the past two decades indicate that change is necessary. The many factors include demographic shifts, a decline in weekly Mass attendance, a high density of parishes in a relatively small geographic area, fewer Clergy, serious financial challenges, and underutilized parish facilities. Everyone needs to understand the urgency for action.

The planning work for restructuring is to decide how the newly merged parish(es) will be formed and operate. Ultimately merged parishes will bring about:

- ***Stronger parish communities throughout the Archdiocese***
- ***Future growth and sustainability***
- ***Revitalization and evangelization throughout the Archdiocese***
- ***Parishes ready to meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of future generations.***

During the next two PPA meetings, the pastors and their representatives will be educated and informed about the current state of affairs in each parish in the PPA. Following these meetings, a discernment process will lead to a recommendation which will identify what parishes might merge. The recommendation will be given to the Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Commission (ASPC). Following their review, deliberation and acceptance, the recommendation will be given to the Archdiocesan Priest Council, College of Consultors and then to Archbishop Chaput who makes the final decision to accept any recommendations.

Throughout the PPA 110 Planning Process, there will be regular and simultaneous announcements, similar to this, printed in the Sunday bulletin of each parish of PPA 110.