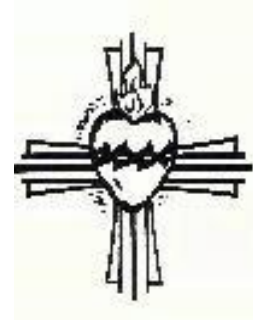




Preparing for the Future Of our Pastoral Region



January, 2012

As you may have heard, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati faces a future of fewer active priests within the next few years. Currently there are 185 active priests in this Archdiocese. If the number of newly ordained priests does not significantly increase, we may well see as few as 100 active priests within ten years due to retirement and unexpected health issues. To address this shortage, Archdiocesan authorities have created a plan whereby parishes will share one pastor within a newly created pastoral region comprised of two or more parishes. Based upon geographical proximity and census statistics, Sacred Heart and St. Ann have been identified as a pastoral region.

The Archdiocese has requested that parishes within the recommended regions enter into dialogue in order to decide if the proposed region is supportable. Additionally, they are to devise plans to support the pastor if/when that region is eventually activated. We want to stress that the goal of this collaborative process is that each parish maintain its own identity and individuality, with one pastor to assume the responsibility for multiple parishes. This is not intended to close or consolidate any parish. A committee of representatives from both parishes selected by Fr. Mondiek and Fr. Tharp has met to start this collaborative dialog. We are cooperating to benefit both parishes in order to retain and enhance the kind and quality of services they presently offer.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of this committee or either pastor.

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