



St. Mary Church - Nine Mile
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January 7, 2012

Dear Parishioner:

May you be lifted to a place of Peace in the very heart of Love as we begin this New Year!

We are writing to you today to share our excitement about the future of the Catholic community at St. Mary Pinconning. As you may recall, Bishop Cistone announced a strategic planning process for the Diocese of Saginaw. The program is entitled ***A Future Full of Hope: Planning Tomorrow's Parishes***. The Church is faced with the serious challenge of a large number of parishes, fewer priests, and limited financial resources needed to operate these parishes. There are only 54 priests serving 109 churches within the diocese. 17 parishes are led by pastoral administrators. In addition, 22 active and senior priests, of various ages and health conditions, also provide sacramental ministry to our parishes.

The goal of the planning process is to enhance the vibrancy of parish life in the Diocese of Saginaw so that parishes will be signs of faith, hope, and love to all God's people. In order to do this, we must perform a self assessment. What are our strengths? Weaknesses? What is your vision for the Catholic community in our area? For that purpose, we invite you to prayerfully consider the dozen questions on the enclosed survey. (Feel free to make copies for all members of your household.)

Please return your survey by Sunday January 22nd, 2012 in the collection basket or to the rectory. Your input is vital to our planning process as we restructure the Parish with an eye to more effective ministry at St. Mary Pinconning. Feel free to phone any Core Team member with your questions and comments. We welcome all of them. We hope to keep you regularly updated so that you feel grounded and secure amidst transition. Change can be unsettling. May the Spirit help us celebrate the past and lead us to a joyful NEW BEGINNING!

Full of hope for our future,

St. Mary Parish Core Team

Colleen Kleinhans (879.2077); Terry Stevens (879.6105); Mary Ann Mayer (879.3838); Keith Knochel (879.2002); Alex Zawacki (846.6728); Father Joe Miller (989.879.5596)

PLANNING TOMORROW'S PARISHES
DIOCESE OF SAGINAW
St. Mary Parish Survey

- 1. What do you appreciate most about St. Mary parish?**
- 2. What are a few areas where you hope that St. Mary parish can grow stronger?**
- 3. What is important to you about liturgy and why?**
- 4. What are some ways liturgy and the sacramental life of St. Mary parish could be enhanced?**
- 5. What opportunities do you see in St. Mary parish to increase the effectiveness of evangelization (spreading the Gospel message)?**
- 6. What changes do you think need to happen to encourage you to enroll your child(ren) or grandchild(ren) in St. Michael's school? What would you like to see improved?**

