

June 25, 1999

Mary Ann Fackelman, John Howell  
Co-Chairs, East Greece/Charlotte PGLT  
4199 Mt. Read Blvd.  
Rochester, New York 14616

Dear Mary Ann and Jack,

Please express my gratitude to the members of the Planning Group Leadership Team for their work in developing a five-year pastoral plan for the Eastern Greece-Charlotte Planning Group. This was an especially challenging task given the number of parishes involved and the size of the parishes. This added to the complexity of an already complicated project. I also want to thank both of you for your leadership. As has been true so many times in the past, your commitment to the Church of Rochester is reflected in your effective leadership of the PGLT.

I am impressed with the comprehensiveness of your plan and the evident care with which you developed it. I appreciate your finding that there were no "crisis level problems" identified for any specific parish or for the planning group. At the same time, you recognize many issues that you face in common and have begun the work of collaboration built on those common needs and issues. Your individual and group strength provides you with the human and finance resources to address these issues in an orderly and comprehensive fashion.

### **Configuration**

During the next five years, the number of priests available to the parishes in the planning group will decline from the current 11 to 9. Your plan calls for the allocation of those nine as follows:

|                         |        |                 |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Holy Cross              | Pastor |                 |
| Holy Name               | Pastor |                 |
| Mother of Sorrows       | Pastor | Parochial Vicar |
| Our Lady of Mercy       | Pastor |                 |
| St. Charles Borromeo    | Pastor | Parochial Vicar |
| St. John the Evangelist | Pastor | Parochial Vicar |

I affirm this allocation based on your recommendation.

## **Facilities and Finance**

Your plan indicates that there are no group capital needs over the next five years and that the financial operations and facilities will remain the responsibility of each parish. I am pleased to see the financial commitment of the parishes to the initial startup costs of collaboration and to increase your efforts to increase parish income through a wills and bequest program supported by the Diocesan Development Office.

I appreciate the need to improve communication among the parishes and between the parishes and the Diocese with regard to finances, especially future changes in financial obligations for the Monroe County Catholic Schools.

## **Communications**

Your commitment to each other to regularly share information, maintain effective communication between parish staffs, and possibly create a single communications vehicle is an important step in building the collaborative infrastructure that will be even more necessary in the future.

## **Collaborative Programming**

You have documented important beginning work on four common concerns that can form the basis for collaboration among the parishes:

1. Outreach to young adults
2. Outreach to single, divorced, separated, bereaved, older adults, single parents, and youth
3. Evangelization of the unchurched
4. Volunteers

Your approach of forming focus teams to pursue collaborative responses to these issues stresses the importance of effective action rather than simply forming committees. Your Working Papers demonstrate the quality of your effort to understand these important issues and will provide effective guidance to the focus teams as they begin their work.

## **Eastern Greece-Charlotte Collaborative Steering Committee**

Your plan calls for the establishment of the EGC<sup>2</sup> Steering Committee that will provide oversight for the implementation of the five-year plan and the work of the focus teams addressing issues included in the plan. The EGC<sup>2</sup> Steering Committee is representative of all six parishes and will not assume any authority over the individual parishes. It will rather serve as an expression of the common life of the six parishes as we move into the future with its challenges and opportunities.

I affirm this five-year pastoral plan and look forward to learning of your experience in implementation. Please now that you and your successors will be in my prayers.

Beginning July 1, Karen Rinefierd will begin her service as Planning Group Liaison. In this role, she will be working directly with the leadership of the EGC<sup>2</sup> Steering Committee as it begins its organization and implementation of the plan.

I look forward to meeting with you in late summer or early fall to celebrate the conclusion of the planning process and the beginning of implementation.

With every good wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ

† Matthew H. Clark  
Bishop of Rochester

MHC:cls

CC Rev. Joseph D'Aurizio  
Rev. Stanley Kacprzak  
Rev. Edward Palumbos  
Rev. Thomas Statt  
Rev. Thomas Wheeland