

November 30, 2005

Most Rev. Bishop Matthew H. Clark D.D.
Diocese of Rochester
1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, New York 14624

Dear Bishop Clark,

During the past year the members of the Auburn Catholic Community Pastoral Planning Group have met to listen, study, discuss, and pray together. The following plan was developed through consensus keeping in mind the specific directives in your letter.

The city of Auburn has a unique and rich history of Catholicism. In the middle of the nineteenth century European immigrants from Ireland, Germany, Poland and Italy established homes and faith communities in the Auburn area. Each group brought with them rich and varied traditions and religious practices. Being mindful of the diversity of our planning group we developed a plan to keep all seven churches open and viable. In the light of the reduction of priests assigned to the Auburn Pastoral Planning Group in the future, it was agreed to establish two working groups to explore ways of collaborating ministries, staffs and activities.

All issues covered in the plan were respectfully considered, affirmed by all pastoral councils and parish members, and approved by the representatives of the Auburn Pastoral Planning Group.

The immediate concern of the Auburn Pastoral Planning Group is the continuing pastoral needs and leadership of St. Hyacinth and St. Francis of Assisi. Our plan requests the clustering of both churches with the appointment of a priest pastor as spiritual leader.

The Auburn Catholic Community respectfully submits the following document for your approval.

In the peace of Christ,

Albert V. Nicolella
APPG Co-chair

Linda M. Fentner OCDS
APPG Co-Chair

Karen Walter
Configuration Chair

cc: Deb Housel, Planning Group Liaison
Rev. Dennis Shaw, Holy Family; Sr. Chris Treichel OSF, Sacred Heart/St. Ann's; Rev. Louis Vasile, St. Alphonsus; Rev. Peter DeBellis, St. Francis of Assisi; Rev. Frank Lioi, St. Mary's;
All Planning Group Members

