

January 22/23, 2011

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary/St. Frances Cabrini,

This weekend you will find inserted in the bulletin the first of a series of the Parish Conversation summaries. You will recall these “Conversations” took place beginning last May and continued through the summer. They have been put into summaries by the members of the Pastoral and Finance Councils as well as parishioners who have been willing to serve as part of a Leadership Team for these “Conversations.” I want to thank them for the great amount of time they took to review your responses, write out these summaries and help prepare them for the bulletin. As you will see, they will capture what so many of you said as we talked for those many months.

These summaries attempted to capture as best as possible what you said in response to the various items we talked about. There may be some inaccuracy from the one who recorded the conversation as well as in the attempt to summarize the conversation. What is important is to see what gives life to our parish and how we can best make that happen in the future.

As I read through them and began to study them I was touched by the memories of days gone by that were significant to so many: the celebration of the various sacraments in peoples lives, the presence of religious sisters in our community, the impact of the parish school, festival and so many others. I was also touched by so many who looked to the future and made recommendations as to how we can have a greater impact on families, the youth and ministries that are offered in the parish; all of which calls for a greater commitment and involvement in parish worship, life and ministry.

As these summaries are presented over the next six weeks, I ask that you take time to read and pray over them. In early spring I will be inviting the parish to a “dream retreat” as we reflect, pray over and begin to plan for the future with these conversations in mind. This will call for a commitment and involvement of a good number of parishioners to make what we envision a reality for the future.

Thank you for your participation in these conversations. Please pray that together we will be attentive as God calls and brings us into the future as St. Mary/St. Frances Cabrini Parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond J. Thomas".

Reverend Raymond J. Thomas, VF
Pastor