

January 9/10, 2010,

Dear Members of St. Mary/St. Frances Cabrini Parish,

I am writing to tell you about a meeting for future parish conversations I held on Tuesday evening, December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Sr. Barbara, Ruth Ann Kinney from Pastoral Planning Council, JJ Eaton from Finance Council and I met with Rick Krivanka, the Director of the Pastoral Planning Office for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland to give Rick background as to where we are now as a parish and how we arrived at this point. This information hopefully will assist him in facilitating the conversations with the parish as to who we are as a parish, how we see ourselves and what service and ministry we are being called to in the future as a parish. I believe this meeting was a good start, but only a start.

I have invited members of the Finance Council and Pastoral Planning Council to be a part of the Leadership Team for these conversations. At this time, by way of a general invitation, I am asking you who are members of the parish and who may have some interest in doing so, also to be a part of the planning as a member of this Leadership Team. The Leadership Team will work with Rick in planning the future conversations as well as leading them.

This planning meeting will take place in Cabrini Hall, Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 6:30 – 8:00 pm in preparation for the parish conversations which will take place in a General Assembly. The General Assembly will be held at a neutral site on Tuesday, March 16, 6:30-8:30 pm. The expectation is that this is an on-going process and will proceed for about 18 months, having begun as of December 8.

At the Parish Office I have information for you to read concerning Appreciative Inquiry which will be the model for the conversations. This will give you some background for the format of the conversations that will take place at the General Assembly in March. When we meet with Rick he will also give you more details as to how this process will assist us for the future.

As we begin this process and the conversations I ask you to pray that through the intercession of Mary of the Immaculate Conception and St. Frances X. Cabrini we may see this through to its completion and be guided by the Holy Spirit in all our discussions and decisions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond J. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Reverend Raymond J. Thomas VF
Pastor