

My fellow parishioners,

In order to assess the present situation and examine the future needs of St. Bartholomew, we have entered into a long-range advancement planning process with the *Institute of School and Parish Development*. The Pastoral Council and Pastoral Staff believe they will assist us in creating a dynamic vision for the future. The results of this process will help us best serve the parishioners and the surrounding community for many years to come.

It is no secret, the Church is changing. St. Bartholomew and St. Vivian parishes are designated a "Pastoral Region" by Archbishop Pilarczyk. At some point in the future, there may only be one pastor ministering in the two parishes. There are important questions to be answered as we move to the future. What is a parish in the 21st century? What is the role of the church? What is our mission? How do we continue the work of Jesus in today's world and not the world of our ancestors in faith 20, 30, or 60 years ago? What will the church look like? What will St. Bartholomew look like? What are the spiritual and pastoral needs of parishioners today? Etc., etc.

We are approaching this planning process as a development effort, and from this point forward we will define "development" as, *"The meaningful involvement of people in our mission and vision for the future."*

This planning effort is designed to invite you and every other parishioner of St. Bartholomew to help shape the future vision of our faith community. It is my sincere hope that you will all be open to invitations to participate and willing to share your best ideas and thoughts for the future of our parish. The main way you can be involved is to contact members of the parish Core Team with any suggestions, questions, or thoughts. Also, please plan to join fellow parishioners at a parish Convocation on August 17, 2008.

This is an exciting time at St. Bartholomew. Please visit this link again to keep informed about the progress of our development efforts and to see ways you can make your voice heard.

On behalf of the Staff and countless parishioners already involved in the process of planning for St. Bart's future, I thank you for your interest, concern and commitment. I invite ALL of you to participate and become even more involved in the life of your parish. As pastor, I am excited about creating a plan for the future of all parish families here at St. Bartholomew.