

John

January, 1997

PARISH FEEDBACK FORM

Please read the enclosed document and respond as your parish leadership to the following questions. Please bring this sheet with your parish/faith community's comments to your regional meeting.

Section IV: Supporting Strategies

SUPPORTING STRATEGY A: JOINT PARISH PLANNING (pages 15 - 19)

In priority order list up to three additions, deletions or changes to the **Rationale and Four Step Process**:

1. Parishes which have already undergone a self assessment process for the clustering process and/or the VITALITY STUDY should be able to stand on the existing results of their work. Both of these studies were very intense and time consuming. SS. PETER AND PAUL parish, for example, spent last year in a myriad of meetings with the diocese and in many meetings at the parish level. There has been too much time spent in meetings, too much paper work and busy work. The time has now come to focus on parish life and parish needs. We know our gifts, our strengths and our needs and we now want to further develop our strengths and address our needs. We ask that the diocese be sensitive and considerate of our time and of the work which we have already accomplished.
2. There must be an easier, more time efficient and more logical way to address our future. We ask that the diocese be more honest and direct with the people. The concern is the shortage of priest pastors. How can we creatively address this issue? How can we make life easier for priests? How can pastoral ministry and administrative work be delegated to parish staff and parishioners? How can lay leadership be encouraged and trained to lead the community in prayer? If clusters, mergers or closings are the only "creative" solutions, (and we do not believe they are) and are to be a necessary part of our future, there must be a less painful and drawn out process of getting to these solutions. This strategic plan is too complicated, too lengthy, and too expensive. Is it really necessary to hire a diocesan planner and to create a planning workbook? This will only generate more paper work. Again we ask that the diocese be more considerate of our time and effort and in the process, save a few trees!!