

June 5, 2009

Reverend William Kennedy  
Pastor, Assumption Parish  
7711 Joseph Street  
Mt. Healthy, Ohio 45231

Dear Pastoral Council:

Because you entrusted me with three years of service on Pastoral Council, I have gained deeper knowledge of both Assumption Parish and the Catholic faith on several levels. The more I learn about our parish the more I realize how truly blessed we are as a faith community.

When we began this mission last June our hearts were heavy with the loss of Assumption School. Many of us were also nervous about the future of Assumption as a parish. Parents and students were anxious about going to a new and bigger school – Our Lady of Grace Catholic School. But . . . what a difference a year can make! Through the grace of God, our community pulled together to make OLG a new home for our students. Also, the Assumption Task Force was commissioned to investigate and evaluate our parish and other parishes, and published their first report last month. While we continue to face many challenges, the report reaffirmed the vitality and strength of our parish.

We challenged ourselves in August to draw parishioners into becoming more involved in our faith community through information tables at parish events, discernment, and personally contacting new parishioners. The information tables made Pastoral Council visible to the parish, and opened the door for better communication. Truly, God blessed us with a very successful and encouraging discernment. Pastoral Council also extended a welcome and an offer of fellowship to over 40 new parishioners and their families. Great work team!

We ended the year by meeting with the St. Margaret Mary Pastoral Council to get to know one another, and evaluate the potential joint opportunities. At that meeting, we learned that our youth ministries and our Directors of Religious Education are already working together, an encouraging sign. It is my hope that we continue to grow these efforts and explore new and exciting opportunities for partnership with our neighboring parish in North College Hill.

Thank you sincerely for the opportunity to serve on Pastoral Council.

God bless,

Susi Dick