

February 6, 2011

Dear Members of St. Michael's Parish.

Beginning in September last year, our parish began the task of developing a pastoral strategy for our present and future needs. The "**Moving Forward Together**" document identified fourteen practical and achievable goals that every member of the parish could commit themselves to.

While we were involved in the preparation of this document at Mass on Sunday, I met with a smaller group of parishioners to develop a **Mission and Vision** statement that would accompany the Moving Forward Together document. This statement is meant to articulate to the community who we are and what our core beliefs and values are.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**We are God's people called to worship and serve Christ Jesus in community on the journey of faith.**

**VISION STATEMENT**

**To celebrate and live Jesus' Word in the world today**

Beginning this week, we will meet with each ministry and group that is active in the parish to continue a conversation that we began last year about our ministry or work in the parish. Using the Moving Forward Together document and the Mission and Vision Statement, each ministry will be asked to establish a new position description and to define the activities, responsibilities, procedures and evaluation for the ministry or group.

Judy Shulist and I will be leading each of these discussions. Our goal is that we will have new position descriptions and procedures completed by the end of the Easter Season. It is also our goal that a new body be created that will provide guidance and guidelines to the parish staff and ministries and groups in the pastoral and liturgical life of the parish.

I look forward to the conversation and ideas that these meeting present over the next few weeks. It is especially appropriate that we do this work in a year when we remember the vision and passion of the men and women who helped to found this parish and to build this fine church. This is an opportunity to build on their legacy and leave to future generations a parish strong in faith.

Sincerely,