



OUR FAITH, OUR FUTURE
A PLAN FOR THE DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

The Northwest Lakeshore, Big Rapids and Grand Haven Deaneries have each completed their fourth round of consultation in the *Our Faith, Our Future* planning process. Early in the process participants created goals and a vision that have been reviewed, discussed and revised. Though still in draft form, the goals and vision have provided the three deaneries with a benchmark for identifying parish and leadership models for their respective areas. The documents are available for viewing at www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org. The vision is a work in progress and so far only reflects input from the three deaneries mentioned above. Eventually, all the parishes of the diocese will have the opportunity to offer input and become part of the dialogue around the vision for vital parishes.

At certain times in the process, consultation members representing the three deaneries were asked to convene meetings in their respective parishes with pastoral council members, finance council members, school board members and other parish leadership

to review the *Vision for Vital Parishes, Goals to Strengthen Parish and School Vitality*, discuss various parish models and obtain feedback and suggestions. Based on the information and feedback received throughout the process, each deanery will develop a proposed plan to be presented to the bishop for his consideration and approval in May. If approved, implementation of the full plans or segments of them could be immediate depending on particular needs. Some parts of the plans will be implemented over several years. The plans will be shared with the diocese.

The second phase of the *Our Faith, Our Future* planning process began in the Grand Rapids Deaneries in late April. Each parish identified parish leaders to be members of the consultation and coordinating committees. You will be kept informed of the planning process for these deaneries.

As the planning process moves forward, please continue to pray that we are open to what the Lord wants us to do and that all we do will be pleasing to him.