

**Vibrant Parish Life
Coordinating Team**

Pastoral Team

- Sr. Joan Franklin, OP
- Fr. Ted Lucas
- Fr. John Singler
- Fr. Ron Wearsch

Pastoral Staff

- Terrie Baldwin
- Darlene Bednarz
- Paula Kampf
- Deacon Carl Toomey
- Mary Ellen Toomey

Pastoral Council

- Pat Patrick
- Tim Spahlinger



Committee Members

- Loretta Adams
- Linda Bolthauzer
- Sue Guzik
- Alice Ann Hengesbach
- Allen Levan
- Mary Jane Levan
- Jim Quade
- Kris Quade
- George Rieder
- Heddy Rieder
- Susanne Sande
- Bonnie Stangry
- Bob Stangry
- Kathy Sull
- Mike Toth
- Mary Ann Zak
- Phillip Zak

Vibrant Parish Life

45/2002

February 25, 2002

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you about one of the most important issues facing our Church today, the future of parish life in the Diocese. I have recently written a Pastoral Letter, *Vibrant Parish Life*, to address this vital topic. The Pastoral presents my convictions about parish life and how we can best sustain this great gift through collaboration among our parishes. I want to share a brief summary of my letter, which describes the realities we face in the 21st century and how we are planning to respond. I hope we will do all that is possible to sustain and enhance the vibrant parish life to which Jesus calls us.

I firmly believe that the vitality of our whole Diocese and all our ministries is rooted in the well-being of our parishes. I am sure that for most of you, your fondest memories and most important experiences of growing up and being Catholic are connected with your parish. The parish is where we worship, where you and your children are formed in the faith, where you are called to serve others in the community, and where you celebrate the most important moments of life. Vibrant parish life is the best way we can proclaim the presence of Christ and inspire others to know and follow Christ.

If our Church is to flourish in this new century, we need to provide a vibrant parish life for every Catholic parishioner and for our priests and parish ministers. We need to address the challenges we are facing from suburban growth, urban decline, rural development, fewer priests and religious, and increasing demands. If every Catholic is to experience a vibrant parish life, we will need to sustain and expand the ministries we now have, while discerning new and creative ways to provide ministry in the future. This will involve your parish and every parish of our diocese.



Please take time to learn about this diocesan initiative by reading the enclosed document and reflecting on it. Please begin to pray for this most important effort for your parish and our whole diocesan Church. Be prepared to offer your support and to participate in this effort during the next few years. Your parish leaders will be providing more detailed information in the coming months.

As we go forward with our *Vibrant Parish Life* initiative, we must discern what God asks of us in these times. We need to recognize and embrace the unifying power the Church has for all of us. It is important that we each grow in our love of the Church and help all people to participate fully in its life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Anthony M. Pilla

**Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla
Bishop of Cleveland**