**Dear Parishioners of St. Mary and St. Joseph,**

For the last several years, the Diocese of Lansing leadership has initiated a **Realignment of Resources for Mission** planning process for the future. This process will enrich and enable our parishers to be more vibrant by working together to serve the faithful. The result of this process is a model of ministry where parishes are asked to vision, plan, and minister *“in solidum”****.* This model of pastoral care is viewed as a practical way of promoting pastoral co-responsibility, as well as fostering a greater sense of support among the priests of a diocese. (Code of Canon Law 1983)**

Bishop Boyea has asked **ST. MARY and ST. JOSEPH** to be in the pilot phase of having parishes work at establishing a partnership in ministry. This partnership means the priests, deacons, pastoral staffs, and parish leaders will review, discuss, and consider how we can minster together between Chelsea and Dexter. Also, to vision how we can be missionary disciples who will bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our communities. The parish staffs will be working to review how we can strengthen adult, youth, and child faith formation. We will look to create adult encounter opportunities (like Chris Stefanick) and how we can do more Christian service and more community building activities together.

For this process to begin, we are seeking to establish a **ST. MARY and ST. JOSEPH PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**. This council made up of 6 parishioners from each parish, the pastor, a deacon, and lay staff member from each parish will begin the work of considering what activities we can hold which will engage Catholics from each community. These activities can include faith formation, spiritual formation, social/Christian service, and community building fun events. The goal being to begin working, socializing, and ministering together.

To establish this **PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**, we are asking parishioners to nominate themselves or others to serve on this council. An invitation to serve on it will be announced at all the Masses on the weekend of May 22, 2022. An evening of information and discernment will be held at St. Mary on June 2, 2022, at 7 PM and at St Joseph on June 8, 2022, at 7 PM, those nominated may attend either information session. On June 11, 2022, Trinity Sunday weekend, we will call on the Holy Spirit to guide our selection by lot. The new **PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL** will hold its first meeting on July 27, 2022, at 7 PM at St. Mary Parish.

Attached with this letter is a page of frequently asked questions, please review. In the coming months you will hear more of how St. Mary and St. Joseph will be discerning and discussing how we can minister together.

In your service,

V. Rev. William J. Canon Turner Fr. Brendan J. Walsh

Pastor St. Mary Parish Pastor St. Joseph Parish