

Dear Celina Cluster parishioner,

You may soon be reading and hearing more about “Beacons of Light” – a new pastoral planning initiative throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The Archdiocese has engaged in a number of planning processes over the years to respond to the spiritual needs of the faithful with limited numbers of priests available for ministry. “For the Harvest” began in 1984, followed by “Ministry 2000” and most recently, “The Futures Project” or “Ministry 2010” that resulted in grouping the 200+ archdiocesan parishes into 100 pastoral regions that we currently see in our local parish clusters and throughout the Archdiocese.

The Archdiocese has been blest with increased numbers of priest vocations in recent years, averaging 5 to 10 ordinations per year, but they are not able to keep up with the large classes of 10 to 20 men ordained 50 years ago who are now retiring. The Archdiocese currently has 149 active priests including 98 pastors available for ministry and anticipate having 75 pastors available for ministry in 2026. Many parishes, like our Celina Cluster, have parochial vicars or associate priests. Religious orders such as the Missionaries of the Precious Blood have also experienced a decrease in vocations and are no longer able to provide the number of pastors they once did.

The aim of the “Beacons of Light” pastoral planning process is forming and sustaining mission driven parishes while decreasing the current 100 pastoral regions to 65 to 75 parish groupings. The Archdiocese has hired two consulting firms to assist with the strategic and pastoral planning processes that will occur over the next two years. The initial phase of gathering vital statistics on each of 200+ parishes throughout the archdiocese has begun and will be used to discern how best to serve the faithful with the limited number of pastors.

The first natural question to ask is what does this mean for our Celina Cluster parishes? It is too early for us to answer that question until the pastoral planning process is further along. What we can assure you is that we and our cluster staff are fully committed to participating in the pastoral planning process on your behalf and calling forth parishioners to assist us. We will be transparent with you as the process unfolds. This will be a collaborative process, seeking input and soliciting help from cluster staff and parishioners, but also working in concert with the broader church so that it will seek to best serve the needs of all the 440,000+ Catholics in the Archdiocese. We ask your prayers, patience and understanding as we embark on this new leap of faith in our cluster and throughout the Archdiocese.

*Fr. Ken & Fr. Tim*

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**IC Parish Christmas Raffle** Saturday, December 5, 2020 This year we are doing a Basket Raffle. Each raffle item will have a basket associated with it. On your raffle ticket enter the number of the item you would like to win and it will be placed in that basket. Raffle tickets can be downloaded from the website or FaceBook Page or picked up at IC parish office. Raffle

basket pictures with brief description are available on the IC website at <https://celina-ic.org> or on the IC Face Book page. Winners will be drawn Saturday afternoon on December 5th. Winners will be called and arrangements made for pick up or delivery. For more information call Toni Shema at 567-644-3608. Make copies and share with your friends! Return tickets with payment in the collection baskets at Mass, drop off at the Parish office or mail to the Parish office at 229 W. Anthony St., Celina, 45822. Tickets must be received in the Parish office by noon on Friday, December 4th.

*Basket Raffle*