

Dear Little Flower Parishioners,

Over the past year, Archbishop Don has been inviting all parishes in the archdiocese to consider who they need to be in dialogue with. Many of the parishes throughout the archdiocese have been challenged, both pre- and post-Covid, by declining attendance and parishioner engagement, lower collections and donations, and aging buildings. Several parishes in our diocese are having conversations with other Catholic parishes, with partners from other Christian denominations, and with towns and RMs in small communities.

About nine months ago, Bishop Don asked the priests assigned to St. Mary's, Holy Cross, and Little Flower to speak with their pastoral council leadership about entering into exploratory discussions with the other two parishes. Approximately five months ago, representatives from the diocesan leadership met with each of the three pastoral councils to review Bishop Don's request and asked that each of the three parishes appoint representatives to enter into exploratory discussions.

Representatives of the parish councils of the three parishes, along with the parish priests, have met with each other a few times now. The discussions are entered into in good faith and without any predetermined outcome. No decisions have been made.

The encouragement that has been provided is to work towards having parishes that are not only viable but also vibrant and vital to the community. When the initial conversations between the leaders of our three parishes move beyond exploratory dialogue to any type of discernment phase, information will be communicated fully with all parishioners.

Please keep the initial discussions in prayer.

Any questions can be directed to Lisa Polk or Fr. Brian Meredith at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Offices.