

## **PARISH MERGER ANNOUNCED**

**August 31, 2008**

This past week, as many by now already know, our bishop has announced the priest conveners of the new reconfigured parishes of our diocese. In the case of St. Veronica, St. Cecilia and St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral the intent of merging these 3 parishes as announced in April has been revised so that St. Veronica and St. Cecilia will merge at St. Cecilia's and St. Joseph's will stand alone.

I'm sure you will find this to be most welcomed news. It reflects the tremendous amount of work and prayers so many have undertaken particularly over the past 4 months. Bishop Galante was greatly impressed by the rationale presented to him for allowing the merger of St. Veronica-St. Cecilia's. He has now given us this opportunity to demonstrate that together the faith community of Delair and Pennsauken West will prove to be a vibrant and dynamic parish in this sector of the diocese.

I am most grateful to Bishop Galante to be appointed Priest Convener and then Pastor of the newly formed merger.

At the same time I am especially grateful to the pastoral planning teams to Julia Wakelee in particular and to members of both St. Veronica and St. Cecilia's Parishes for your consistent prayerful dedication to the task before us and the very charitable, Christ-centered approach when making the recommended merger to Bishop Galante. I am also most anxious to meet with the core teams from each parish. Our coming together will hopefully reflect the same spirit that will soon see us as one people and one faith community. Embracing together our time, talents and treasures in such a way unite us as a people striving always to find, accept and live the very mind and heart of Christ.

Fr. Bill