

MERGER: THE CHALLENGE

November 2, 2008

A message from Fr. Bill:

When Bishop Galante commissioned the Priest Conveners and Core Team members of the 40 merging parishes 2 weeks ago he said: "you are given a challenge. The challenge of bringing together communities into a new community, a new union, in a sense, a new people."

The work of the Core Team will truly involve a conversion process. This "conversion" has a positive focus. It can and should mean that we open our minds and hearts to the Holy Spirit, measuring our relationship with God by our relationship with one another. It is a conversion which means letting go of something good for something better.

It will be the Core Team's work to continue to build the church among the people of God here in Pennsauken so that the new parish to be formed will take on a new life, calling each and every parishioner, both in practice and in name, to recognize their God given talents as baptized and confirmed Catholics.

Nearly 2 years ago, when every parishioner of every parish was invited to express their hopes and desires for more faith-filled communities, the priorities that surfaced included good liturgies in worship that expresses the internal belief we have and hold in common, to be communities of service, ministering to our youth and seniors in particular, to practice compassionate outreach, and to go out to others who are hurting, alienated who feel abandoned or lost.

As Bishop Galante said "no one of us can do it alone but, all of us together with God's help, with our willingness to pray and to make us more who we have professed to be...will be able to be what it means to be an active Christian, what it means to be Church." The months ahead can be challenging but also exciting times for all of us at St. Veronica's and St. Cecilia's.