

Dear Father Yeazel and Father Manno:

It is with deep regret that we read your February 12, 2007 letter to St. Mary's Parishioners. Tucked in the second paragraph was the sentence that no matter what, Sunday Mass at St. Mary's would end after Easter as stated in your September 16/17, 2006 letter. You cited the reason for this being an agreement made with the leadership team of our parish.

When we became a mission of Holy Cross, it was our belief that the make up of the mission would evolve. We further understood that as part of a PCA a plan would be proposed to the Bishop and, following his decision, we would further develop our format as a mission church. These decisions regarding the PCA, we were told, had not been made in September, 2006. More information needed to be gathered and pieced together to come up with a cohesive, workable, good, plan for all parishes involved to present to the Bishop.

Since September, 2006 the following things have happened at St. Mary's Church. Two listening sessions were held so that you could, in conversation, find out the history, needs, and concerns of our parishioners. From these sessions we are sure you learned of the commitment, strength, and willingness to share ministries and responsibilities of our people. One young man even spoke of St. Mary's as creating a new model of lay leadership that other parishes could follow.

Fr. Manno met on several occasions with our Mission Possible group to help us reflect on ways that we could evangelize within the Jamesville/DeWitt community and spark a renewed sense of faith within our parish. We found ways to make our church building more visible and have kept our weekend Mass attendance steady.

Information on residential development in our Jamesville community was compiled and shared with you. Based on statistics from the J-D School District and proposed housing developments in the area substantial growth is projected for Jamesville.

St. Mary's leadership continued to press to retain Sunday Mass beyond the original First Sunday of Lent ending date. This was postponed because the Bishop did not present his PCA decisions at that time. The new deadline is Easter, but our leadership's request for a continued Sunday Mass remains in place.

We are willing and pleased to share ministries with our sister parish, Holy Cross. We have held joint Pastoral Council meetings, gathered for social events, participated in a joint parish mission, and shared youth and adult educational events. We know this type of cooperation is beneficial to both communities and will continue to grow. This however, does not replace the need for a continued

Sunday Mass at St. Mary's to meet the liturgical needs of our parish as a mission of Holy Cross.

In light of the above, it would seem that you have not really opened your heart to listening or considering St. Mary's needs as a faith community within the larger Holy Cross parish. Much has happened since September, 2006. Our leadership continues to ask you not to make a firm decision about Sunday Masses until the Bishop makes an announcement regarding our PCA. One of the proposals put forth by our PCA was that there be two sites: Holy Cross and St. Mary's. If that is the course the Bishop chooses, it would seem that we should jointly meet in a group larger than our Pastoral Council president and two Trustees to determine weekend Masses at St. Mary's. Otherwise, it appears you made your decision in September and all that has happened since then has been ignored.