

Church of the Assumption

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45231
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May 17, 2009

Dear Parishioner,

We are nearing the end of the first year of our school's move to Our Lady of Grace, and our students seem to be adjusting well to the changes they are experiencing in location, schedules, and curriculum. There have been some rough edges to smooth out, and the principal, teachers, and staff at OLG are handling the issues well. Our young people are enjoying some new educational and extracurricular opportunities and making new friends.

Apparently, since the move of our school to Our Lady of Grace, there have been some rumors circulating that infer that our Parish will soon be closing. Nothing could be farther from the truth, so I feel it is important to convey to you the State of our Parish in rather succinct terms. Our Parish is considered to be of moderate size when compared to all other parishes in our archdiocese. Last year a Parish Task Force was commissioned by Pastoral Council to assess our strengths and opportunities, as well as threats and weaknesses. A summary of their findings and recommendations follows. We are strong in liturgy, community outreach, parishioner support and prayer. Assumption clearly meets archdiocesan standards for parish ministry and is an active force in this area. Last year we borrowed \$235,000 from the archdiocese, but this would have been \$150,000+ annually we had not moved to a regional school model. As soon as the school building is rented, our Finance Council projects we can pay back the debt in less than five years.

Our Church is secure and maintained well with investments being made to replace the broken sound system. We have no plans currently to reduce the Mass schedule and we are meeting the requests and needs for Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings, and all other sacraments. Our Parish Center is well occupied with Parish and school activities. Meeting spaces are being expanded, maintained and improved through the work of many very dedicated parish volunteers.

It is true that there is a real possibility I will be able to retire next year. Since this Parish is of moderate size, it is likely that a new pastor will be assigned. If the priest shortage prohibits that, the Task Force has examined other Parish operational models to ensure that this Church remains a source of worship and the sacraments and that Parish activities continue to be managed well. The Task Force will remain as a viable planning group as we approach potential changes in administration, and a Five Year plan is being developed as a result of their work.

I hope that this helps resolve any concerns you might have about the future of Assumption Parish. Many Parishes function actively and well without a school on-site. I anticipate that Assumption will continue to do well.

Sincerely in Christ



Rev. William M. Kennedy