



*Archdiocese of Saint Paul
and Minneapolis*

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

MOST REVEREND JOHN C. NIENSTEDT

May 23, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

On this glorious feast of Pentecost, it is especially appropriate to be reminded that the Church, as the Body of Christ, is a communion of faith, hope and love, sent into the world to bear witness to the Gospel of truth, life and love. This is the vision that needs to be renewed in us on this holy day!

That vision has been the guiding light for the Strategic Planning Task Force which I charged over a year ago to study the future make-up of our Archdiocesan parishes and schools. Their recommendations will be given to me this summer and a new strategic plan will be announced in the fall.

The intent of this letter is to notify you of the fact that changes are coming, but also to assure you that the overall vision for the changes is to ensure that this Archdiocese will be a stronger and more vital church for our children and grandchildren. The changes that will be proposed are, in fact, meant to proclaim and promote this local Church as a more dynamic and effective communion of faith, hope and love.

I understand that change is never easy for any of us. But understanding the reason behind the change goes a long way toward accepting it. As we celebrate today the pouring forth of the Holy Spirit upon the Church, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us through this period of change in such a way that we will be more united together as a real communion of faith, hope and love.

Please pray for me as I promise to do the same for you.

With every good wish, I remain,

Cordially yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis