My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This month marks a host of new beginnings for our Diocese as we approach our 45th anniversary on July 21st. In just a few short weeks on July 1st we will implement the Diocesan Pastoral Plan: A Future Full of Hope. This plan calls for the creation of 28 Parish Collaboratives shepherded by 28 pastors along with 29 Parochial Vicars.

This plan has been more than a year in the making as I began conversations with our priests last summer. At our annual Fall Convocation last year we addressed the challenge of vocations and ordinations not keeping pace with the number of priests retiring. It was clear we needed a plan to provide the best pastoral care for the people of our Diocese.

We knew our plan had to build on the strength of our Parishes and not diminish them in any way. That is why we are not closing or merging any Parishes but rather building on those strengths and unique identities as we bring Parishes together as Collaboratives.

I am hopeful that as a result of all the consultation, training and most importantly prayer that we will emerge from this time of transition a stronger and more vibrant Church in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Let us continue to pray for each other, for the renewal of the Church and for more ways we can live out our mission to “Renew Faith, Build Communion and Inspire Hope.”

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo

At a Glance

Who:
The Diocese of Kalamazoo, founded in 1971, with more than 110,000 Catholics in Southwest Michigan is embarking on a historic Diocesan Pastoral Plan – the first of its kind in its almost 45-year-history.

The 57 priests in the Diocese of Kalamazoo received assignments to be effective July 1, 2016.

Twenty-eight will be appointed Pastors and 29 will be appointed as Parochial Vicars and/or Chaplains and other special assignments.

What:
The 59 parishes of the Diocese are being organized into 28 Parish Collaboratives. These Collaboratives range from one to three Parishes.

The Parishes retain individual identities, are led by one Pastor and additional pastoral staff as assigned. The Parish Collaborative decides on the local level the best opportunities for combining resources and strengthening the faith in those communities.

When:
The Parish Collaboratives were announced by Bishop Bradley in January 2016 and will be fully operational on July 1st when the 28 Pastors will assume their assignments.

Where:
The Diocese of Kalamazoo in Southwest Michigan consists of nine counties. The seat of the Diocese is Kalamazoo and St. Augustine Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Diocese.

Why:
Bishop Bradley developed a plan that provides the best pastoral care for the people. The number of priests retiring, or set to retire, was surpassing the number of new priests being ordained. The plan is a proactive approach and vocations-hopeful as the Diocese positions for growth through all 59 parishes to best serve the pastoral and sacramental needs of the people.

How:
Beginning in mid-2015 Bishop Bradley began a series of consultations with the priests and lay faithful of the Diocese to create a Diocesan Pastoral Plan to proactively address the priest to parishioner ratio and plan for the best pastoral care of the people.

Priests were convened and consulted for input and feedback during a series of meetings for six months prior to the January 2016 announcement of the 28 Parish Collaboratives.

Priests, parish staffs, diocesan personnel and lay volunteers have participated in a number of leadership workshops to best equip them for dealing with the transition and envisioning the new model within the age of the new evangelization.
ALLEGAN COUNTY
4 Collaboratives — 5 Priests — 2 Retired Priests in Residence — 2,598 Families

Pastor: Rev. Fabio Garzon
+ St. Peter Parish, Douglas • 525 Families
+ San Felipe de Jesus Parish, Pearl (Fennville) • 124 Families • Spanish Mass

Administrator: Rev. Christopher Derda
Canonical Pastor/Senior Parochial Vicar: Rev. Stephen Rodrigo
+ St. Mary’s Visitation Parish, New Salem (Byron Center) • 419 Families
  St. Mary’s Visitation School
+ St. Stanislaus Parish, Hilliards (Dorr) • 211 Families
  St. Stanislaus School
+ Sacred Heart Parish, Watson • 56 Families

Pastor: Rev. Benjamin Huynh
Retired Priests in Residence: Rev. Gordon Greene & Rev. Donald Klingler
Pastor: Rev. Alan Jorgensen (through September 30, 2016)*
  + Blessed Sacrament Parish, Allegan* • 350 Families
  + St. Margaret Parish, Otsego • 366 Families • Spanish Mass
  Saint Margaret Catholic Academy

BARRY COUNTY
2 Collaboratives — 3 Priests — 1,263 Families

Pastor: Rev. Stephan Philip, MSFS
+ St. Rose of Lima Parish, Hastings • 481 Families
  St. Rose of Lima School
+ St. Cyril Parish, Nashville • 81 Families

Pastor: Rev. John Fleckenstein
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Robert Johansen
+ St. Ann Parish, Gull Lake (Augusta) – Kalamazoo County • 561 Families
  St. Ann School
+ St. Ambrose Parish, Delton • 110 Families
+ Our Lady of Great Oak Parish, Lacey • 50 Families

BERRIEN COUNTY
5 Collaboratives — 12 Priests — 4,689 Families

Pastor: Rev. Brian Stanley
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Michael Rejent, OSFS
+ SS. John & Bernard Parish, Benton Harbor • 1,060 Families

Pastor: Very Rev. Robert Creagan
Parochial Vicar & Chaplain/Spiritual Moderator for LMC: Rev. Thomas McNally
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Paul Redmond
Chaplain for Healthcare Ministry: Rev. Harold Potter
+ St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph • 1,721 Families • Spanish Mass
  Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School
  Lake Michigan Catholic Middle School
  Lake Michigan Catholic High School

Pastor: Rev. Arthur Howard
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Leonel Cartagena (with special care of Hispanic/Latino community)
+ St. Anthony Parish, Buchanan • 213 Families
+ St. Gabriel, Berrien Springs • 101 Families • Spanish Mass
+ Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bridgman • 200 Families

Pastor: Rev. Patrick Craig
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Daniel Doctor
+ St. Mary of the Lake Parish, New Buffalo • 284 Families
  St. Mary of the Lake School
+ St. Mary’s Assumption Parish, Three Oaks • 106 Families
+ St. Agnes Parish, Sawyer • 110 Families

Pastor: Rev. Christian Johnston*
+ St. Mary Parish, Niles • 688 Families • Spanish Mass
  St. Mary School

Pastor: Rev. Thomas King, CSC*
+ St. Mark Parish, Niles • 206 Families
**Pastor:** Rev. Christopher Ankley  
**Administrator of St. Philip Parish/Spiritual Moderator & Chaplain of St. Philip Catholic Central High School:** Rev. Simon Chummar-Manjooran, SDB  
**Parochial Vicar & Spiritual Moderator/Chaplain for St. Joseph Elementary and Middle Schools:** Rev. Jose Haro  
**Chaplain for Healthcare Ministry/Part-time Parochial Vicar:** Rev. Robert Johansen

**What is our “Future Full Of Hope”?**

How does the Diocese Pastoral Plan benefit the faithful in the Diocese of Kalamazoo?

- **Parish Collaboratives** will help better distribute pastoral care, so our Pastors are available to see closely to the needs of their Parishes.
- These Collaboratives allow Priests to utilize their talents in many ways, as Pastors, Parochial Vicars, School or Hospital Chaplains and other ministries.
- The focus of the Pastoral Plan is to build the Diocese by strengthening our Parishes. Collaboratives will be able to share resources and best practices to the benefit of all.
- The Pastoral Plan is vocations hopeful. All changes are temporary. We are positioning the Diocese for growth with the goal of one pastor for every parish.
**NOTES:**

**Two new apostolates include the Vietnamese Apostolate and the Hispanic/Latino Apostolate**

**Rev. Vanathaiyan Savarimuthu, MSFS, will be arriving in the Diocese in June 2016 and appointed as Parochial Vicar to St. Monica Parish, Kalamazoo Collaborative [bringing the total number of priests appointed to active ministry in the Diocese to 58.]**