



June 19, 2007

Dear Pastors and Core Committee Members:

Just eight months ago we began a journey. I say 'we' but you are the ones that have traveled the path of presentations, meetings, and discussions. Now, the Planning Commission has given me their Final Recommendations to consider and discuss with my Consultors, councils, and staff of the Diocese. **Thank you!** The fine work that you have done is a wonderful expression of your faith, a faith that is alive and growing from a hope rooted in the love of Jesus Christ for us.

During this time of consultation, I have a simple request to ask of each one of you, one that has supernatural consequences for the future of all in the Diocese of Madison.

Pray. Pray unceasingly for our Diocese. Call upon the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary and the Archangel Raphael, our patron. There is nothing more important for our Diocese at this time than for all of us to drop to our knees and ask God for His help as we begin this new discernment period and as we prepare for the **Guided by the Spirit** Implementation process.

There are many in the Diocese working very hard to prepare materials to assist us in the implementation. It takes time to do things correctly, something each of you know personally after these last eight months and anything worth doing is worth doing well. **Pray** for my staff as they prepare for the implementation, that they are given the wisdom and fortitude to assist us in the coming years of change.

There are many in the Diocese who are filled with anxiety and concern for how the changes that are coming will affect them. This is a real unknown for many and it is challenging their faith. **Pray** for them, that our Mother Mary will lift them up and console them. **Pray** that the Archangel Raphael will protect and guard them as they live out their changes. I will be visiting with those people who have concerns with the Final Recommendations; please **pray** for me as I meet with people from around the Diocese. As a reminder, I will be visiting the Holy See in September to discuss the recommendations with various Curia officials before announcing my directives in October, almost exactly a year to the day after we began. As I mentioned to you when we started this journey last October, I have great faith in Jesus Christ and those that he has providentially placed before me to help with this planning process and I thank you once again from the deepest part of my heart.

Know that I will be praying for each and every one of you throughout this time of discernment and I ask that you pray for me as well. In all that we do let us all be ... *Guided by the Spirit.*

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison

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