



Archdiocese of Newark

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

April 2011

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This fall it will be ten years since I was called to serve you as Archbishop of Newark. A few months after I arrived here, I came to the conclusion that the status quo of parish life in our Archdiocese could not be maintained. I then asked Monsignor William Harms to put together a task force that would come up with criteria for a healthy parish. After much hard work this task force produced the 28 principles of parish life that have guided the New Energies Parish Transition Project for the parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark.

In the beginning, we asked all parishes to reflect on these principles as they pertained to their own parish life, and then to enter into the New Energy process of evaluation and planning for the future. I am pleased that so many of our parishes have taken seriously their commitment to the goals of New Energies.

The goals of the project remain central to all the work of New Energies. These include:

1. To enhance quality parish life throughout the Archdiocese;
2. To support increased understanding of and action on the 28 principles related to quality parish life;
3. To strengthen the presence and ministry of the Church in urban and suburban areas;
4. To increase collaboration between and among leaders, parishes and the whole Archdiocese of Newark;
5. To act as good stewards of all human, financial and facility resources;
6. To build a greater sense of unity within the rich ethnic, cultural and age diversity present within the local Church.

Archdiocesan Center

171 CLIFTON AVENUE • POST OFFICE BOX 9500 • NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104-0500 • (973) 497-4004 • Fax (973) 497-4018

April, 2011
Page 2

I am most grateful to all of the members of the Archdiocesan Implementation Team as they continue working with the clusters to implement their particular goals.

I am convinced that all this hard work is helping us to continue bringing “new energy” to the Archdiocese of Newark. I also recognize the challenges we have faced in some of the changes we are trying to make, especially dealing with people’s emotions as parishes have reflected on their histories and come to grips with some of the realities they must face concerning their futures.

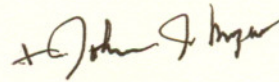
While many of our efforts have been successful, I am concerned with the difficulties encountered by some of our parishes that have not been able to work together to implement the goals established for their cluster. I also realize that many parishes are facing financial challenges as well as demographic changes and we must continue working together to address these issues.

Having been inspired by the seriousness, the prayer and the sense of stewardship that has gone into all your deliberations, I thank God for your spirit of cooperation and your sense of the needs of the wider Church. I am happy to inform you that since the beginning of the project 10 new parishes have been created through the merger of 20 parishes; 14 parishes have formed strong linkages; and 194 parishes are in partnership, forming 75 clusters. Such cooperation is truly commendable, and a visible sign of our own linkage to two millennia of Catholic history of seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and our own brothers and sisters in faith.

I continue to ask each cluster to work closely with the New Energies – Archdiocesan Implementation Team, so that together they can remain viable for years to come.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,



✠Most Reverend John J. Myers
Archbishop of Newark

nb