

As of January 31, 2006 the Cluster Committee has completed its visits with the leadership of each church within our cluster. The purpose of these visits was to get a better understanding of the kinds of ministries and characteristics that each church felt was important to the life of their particular church family. We have enjoyed learning what it is that makes each church a vibrant place of worship and presence in their communities. This was also an opportunity to learn about the concerns that were on people's minds.

One of the most common concerns that we heard relates to how the work of the individual churches and their commissions will be impacted by clustering. We understand the importance of the various commissions and ministries for each of our churches and our goal is to create a cluster that supports and enhances these works. We have formed subcommittees to help us explore how our commissions might work together and what they need in order to maintain their unique qualities.

The desire to keep the monies raised from a particular church available to that church was expressed by each community we visited. The Cluster Committee recognizes that this is a strongly held sentiment and we will keep it under consideration as we form our recommendations to the Bishop.

We also understand that maintaining open lines of communication with all parishioners is vital to creating a successful cluster. In response to this need we will be posting our Cluster meeting minutes and updated statements from our committee on bulletin boards in each of the churches and on the various church websites. At this point we have been able to create a cluster link on Our Lady of Perpetual Help's website. The information under the Cluster 23 link includes a listing of all of the churches within our cluster, all of the bulletin inserts that we have published to date, our cluster meeting minutes, and frequently asked questions. We encourage you to visit the website at www.ourlady.com and let us know what you think. In the near future we hope to have this information posted on the other websites in our cluster. It is our intention that these efforts, along with the usual bulletin inserts, will help to answer at least some of the questions you may have about the clustering process. The cluster committee plans to meet with parishioners in the coming months to share our progress and more details regarding the model we may be considering at that time. Please do not hesitate to contact any of your representatives with your questions or concerns.