

St. Patrick Catholic Church

1500 Vine Street
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016-1882
715-381-5120

December 5, 2006

Most Reverend Raphael M. Fliss
Bishop of Superior
1201 Hughitt Avenue
PO Box 969
Superior WI 53880

Dear Bishop Fliss,

I am writing you on behalf of the Pastoral Council of St. Patrick Parish and the St. Patrick Council of Elders. The purpose of this letter is to update you on the activities of our parish in regards to the mutual promises we have exchanged regarding the healing process and Four Commitments. We are continuing with our commitment to move forward as a parish and we are seeking an update from you about progress on your end.

In the last meeting with you, your staff, our representatives and Fr. Parr in Superior on September 6, we all agreed to a number of next steps. As representatives of St. Patrick Parish, we promised to make a report to our parish and community regarding the progress we have made as a parish over the last year. We have done so and enclosed please find a copy of the report "St. Patrick Parish, A Journey of Healing." This report was mailed to all households in our parish on October 29, and was verbally summarized at our weekend liturgies. We continue to receive a tremendous amount of interest in our process of healing from a wide variety of sources, locally and nationally, within and outside the church. Perhaps you saw the major article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press regarding our parish's journey and our new leadership; the newspaper covered the story of our verbal report at our Masses and placed a complete copy of our written report on their website with a link in the article for further information. It is very clear to us that many people are watching the activities in regards to our situation and it is our hope that the many hours of work we have mutually invested in this process will produce benefits beyond St. Patrick Parish and the Diocese of Superior.

We are once again looking for you to communicate to us and to the entire Diocese, the status of your progress on the Four Commitments. In our September 6 meeting, you promised to promptly place a significant article in the Catholic Herald regarding the planning and activities that have been taking place for over a year now. You agreed to place new emphasis on moving forward with all four promises, including tangible steps to establish Commitment Four, an External Pastoral Review Council. We were heartened to receive your letter of September 13 reiterating your commitments and acknowledging that our efforts at dialogue have been constructive and effective. We must frankly say we were confused by subsequent correspondence from you on October 17 that appeared to signal an end to our mutual efforts; however, we appreciate the clarifications you made at our request in your letter of October 27. Our current understanding is that you are still prepared to honor all Four Commitments and

are still committed to working with us. We now ask why, after all these many months and many meetings and many reassurances, there is still no public communication of your plans and no report of any progress?

Because of the lack of public communication in this regard, we would once again like to discuss with you very soon, either in person or via teleconference, tangible plans to make the Four Commitments a reality for all the people of the Diocese. Please accept our invitation to continue constructive dialogue and please demonstrate to us that we should continue to trust in this process. We feel this meeting is critical to getting the process back on track.

To keep you informed of our continuing efforts at positive change, here are our next steps:

1. The topic of the Four Commitments and communications with the Diocese will appear on each agenda of our future Pastoral Council meetings and the progress will be reported to the Council.
2. We will be making another general update to our parish in January, around the anniversary of your visit.
3. We will continue to post updates regarding our journey of healing on the St. Patrick Parish web site and make these items of interest available to those seeking information from the general public and media.

I will be contacting your office this week to schedule this important meeting before year end. On behalf of the entire parish, I thank you in advance for continuing to work with us for the benefit of the people of God.

Sincerely,

Samuel R. Cari
Chair, Pastoral Council
Council of Elders

Cc Reverend John Parr

Enclosure: "St. Patrick Parish, A Journey of Healing"

ON BEHALF OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL AND COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Members available to sign and endorse: