

## January 15, 2012



My Dear Parishioners:

As the New Year begins, the focus of our attention here at St. Bede's is the recommendation of the **Blue Ribbon Commission**, recently accepted by Archbishop Chaput, which creates a **Regional Catholic School** between St.

**Bede the Venerable and Assumption B.V.M.** Parish in Feasterville. With declining enrollments across the Archdiocese, mergers like the one which will be established here in September 2012 decreases the financial burdens on each parish. But more importantly, it ensures that a strong, sustainable, attractive Catholic school remains in our region.

In order to make this all happen, the two pastors and principals have begun to meet. Our preparations and deliberations have been guided and supported by the Office of Catholic Education. While many other pastors are appealing this decision, **Fr. McGeowan** (Assumption's pastor) and I feel that our geographical proximity and our individual school community's preparedness and awareness of the challenges **will make our merger truly beneficial** for the children of our two parishes.

From what we have learned thus far, I can tell you that come June 2012, our individual schools cease to exist and a new educational entity consolidating the finest traditions and characteristics of each former school will emerge. It is presumed that a

**new name will be selected.** Suggestions for the new name will be solicited from our community. The selection of the principal will be announced, presumably, by early February 2012.

An **Implementation Committee** composed of the two pastors - Fr. Bill McGeowan and myself, and our two principals Sr. Patricia McKee, IHM and Mrs. Margi Slomiany, along with three parents from each parish, will be formed immediately. The names of the Implementation Committee members will be announced in next week's bulletin. The Implementation Committee will help steer us through the many tasks we have to accomplish in the very near future.

It is important to remember that **this is a merger only of schools, not of parishes.** Each parish remains distinct and separate, with its own celebration of the sacraments and its own CYO program (CYO is a parish organization open to all children of the parish. It is not a school extra-curricular activity).

With all changes in life, there are hurdles to be jumped. But Fr. McGeowan, Sr. Pat, Mrs. Slomiany and I are committed to making the New Regional Catholic School a model of which both parishes can be rightly proud. Thus, the formation of good Catholic leaders will be ensured for the future. Remember to access [www.faithinthefuture.com](http://www.faithinthefuture.com) for further information from the Archdiocese. Please pray for the success of our endeavors.

May God Bless You,

*Monsignor Marine*

## January 22, 2012

My Dear Parishioners:

Preparations continue as St. Bede the Venerable and Assumption B.V.M. schools get ready to consolidate and form a **new regional school** that will begin officially at the end of this current school year. Mrs. Slomiany and I had the first meeting with our **St. Bede Implementation Team**. This team, composed of parents, will assist us as we work on the many tasks that have to be considered prior to registration. Assumption B.V.M. Parish has also formed their Implementation Team as well. Each parish was asked to select three members.

The members of St. Bede's Implementation Team are: **Rob Linden, Joanne Williams and Frank Lynch.** However because our school has been blessed through the years with students from St. Vincent DePaul Parish, I have asked Fr. McGeowan (Assumption's pastor), and he agreed to permit an extra member as an alternate and consultant from St. Vincent DePaul Parish. That member is **Maureen Menarde.**

I encourage all parishioners to carefully read my column each week in order to stay informed regarding the school consolidation. If you were away last week, I encourage you to **access last Sunday's column on both our website and facebook page**, since I explained several aspects of the new school. As recommended by our Implementation Team, a

question and answer format communiqué will also appear very soon both in my column and online. Watch for it and submit your questions.

I am happy to announce that **our parish will soon be forming our own Knights of Columbus Council.** Now in its 125<sup>th</sup> year of existence, the Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic family fraternal service organization in the world. It is built on the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

On the weekend of **February 25 and 26**, members of the Knights of Columbus' state leadership will speak after communion at all Masses. I encourage all men of the parish to consider joining the Knights, and to unite together in supporting the mission of the Catholic Church, and especially of our parish.

Finally, **this Thursday**, St. Bede Parish hosts the county-wide **Youth for the Eucharist** here in our **lower chapel at 7 p.m.** I urge parents of teenagers to strongly encourage their young people to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity for teens to go to confession, meet other teens, reflect on the issues of life and have some quiet time of prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament. Amazing and grace-filled things happen each month!

May God Bless You,

*Monsignor Marine*