



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

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My Dear Friends in Christ:

We have been through a great deal of change and have witnessed countless encouraging examples of leadership in the Archdiocese of Detroit over the past three years under the *Together In Faith* pastoral planning process. As I wrote to you in my pastoral letter in February 2012, it is only with a very keen sense of God's purpose in bringing us "together in faith" can we understand how God has been working through all of us to shape the future of our community, and of our parishes.

So I am grateful that, last November, more than 41,000 local Catholics took the opportunity to be a part of this process by participating in our *Perceptions of the Faithful*. This survey was no simple opinion poll, but was an instrument for us to learn how to better focus parish resources on the seven mission priorities we share as one people of faith in the Detroit Archdiocese. These mission priorities are:

- Catholic schools
- Christian service and outreach
- Evangelization and catechesis
- Lay leadership
- Stewardship and administration
- Vocations
- Youth and young adults

While this survey is only the latest step in a long history of strategic planning in the Archdiocese of Detroit, *Perceptions of the Faithful* marks the first time parishioners have been asked to evaluate current planning efforts related to these seven mission priorities, as well as other aspects of parish life.

At present, as we are able to share an overview of the findings in the *Perceptions of the Faithful* survey, it is my hope that, with prayer and discernment, we can use the valuable perspectives within to inform future planning at the parish, vicariate and archdiocesan levels. I hope, too, that the many discussions precipitated by this survey may help each of you become more aware of opportunities to deepen your faith life and involvement in your parish.

Asking God's blessings upon you, and praying that we may together become better prepared to share Christ in and through the Church, I am

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit