



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT
1234 WASHINGTON BLVD.
DETROIT, MI 48226

February 2, 2006

Dear Father:

As we begin the month of February, I thought it would be timely to review with you the current schedule of the *Together in Faith* process and update you on some related matters.

In keeping with the recommendations of the Vicars and APC, we are now in the process of one of the last consultation between the vicariates and the *Together in Faith* Coordinating Committee. This third opportunity for dialogue was inserted into the process to insure accuracy and to allow maximum input and perspective before final decisions and announcements. It is my understanding that the recommendations of the Coordinating Committee will mirror, for the most part, what the vicariates have submitted. I expect to receive these final recommendations of the Coordinating Committee at the beginning of March.

I will then review the recommendations with the regional bishops. In subsequent meetings with the Vicars and the Presbyteral Council, I will receive your input on a pastoral letter that is projected for release in late March. At this writing, we are looking for a date on the calendar for me to be able to share with the Vicars the approved pastoral plan prior to releasing it to the wider Catholic community and the news media.

Regarding clergy issues, I am mindful of the fine work of the *Total Pastoral Plan for Priests* and our discussions of this plan at last fall's Convocation at Boyne Highlands. While the Coordinating Committee was fully briefed on the *Total Pastoral Plan for Priests* early in our strategic planning process, now that these two plans have come to fruition, we want to ensure that the findings of these two committees not be lost or forgotten. Therefore, as the work of the coordinating committee comes to a close, the *Together in Faith* process will be handed off to a Tracking Committee, which will be charged with more fully integrating *Together in Faith* with the *Total Pastoral Plan for Priests*. The Tracking Committee will begin meeting in April.

With regard to finances, it seems timely to report back to you about matters I discussed in my letter of March 2005 – St. John's Center in Plymouth and the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. As I indicated at that time, Archdiocesan resources were used to leverage these two worthwhile projects which have made major contributions, in their own unique way, to our Catholic presence and culture. I also noted that a decade ago, the

Archdiocese – indeed the whole economy – was much more prosperous when these investments were first made. In our current reality, while much of the following information has been shared previously with the Presbyteral Council and other consultative groups, I thought it timely to share this information more broadly now.

As it relates to the Cultural Center, not unlike our parishes and schools or other properties, my advisors and I considered this project – from its very inception – worthy of our financial investment. This has taken two forms: a bank loan drawn for the Center, but secured by the Archdiocese (\$23-million), and a direct loan to the Center (\$17-million). These two investments are secured by the assets of the Center, including its property, which is mortgage free. In the coming weeks, the Board of Directors will consider refocusing select elements of the Center’s mission. Development, program, and finance committees are being re-constituted to advise the Board how the Center can best sustain itself as a Washington – based institution.

As it relates to St. John’s, while the Archdiocese did invest \$30-million to renovate the main building and update and expand the golf course to 27 holes, no Archdiocesan funds were used to construct the new hotel on the property; the project was funded entirely by private investors, who have asked to remain anonymous. I intend to honor their request. The revenue streams from the hotel and the previously established conference and hospitality facilities at namely The Retreat Center. The total worth of this asset – the entire complex – is far in excess of the Archdiocesan investment.

In closing, please know of my gratitude for your dedicated service to the people of God. In particular, I am thankful for those of you who have been actively involved in the various planning processes. As a Church, we face many challenges and opportunities. With faith in God and prayers for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I am convinced that – *Together in Faith* – our local Church will journey with renewed energy, vision, and hope into the future.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

† *Adam Cardinal Maida*

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Archbishop of Detroit