

I wish to present the following issues and challenges for your cluster to address:

- Continue to explore collaborative possibilities to strengthen pastoral care in an equitable manner.
- Strengthen evangelization and the social and community services that serve the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Engage all of our faithful in regularly attending and participating in the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy.
- Submit a plan for this area to be served by no more than 3 priests (3 vs. 4) in 2 years (by July 1, 2009).
- Continue to support *Church in the City* partnerships through cluster-cluster cooperation.
- Continue to monitor enrollment trends and collaborate to insure the long term presence of strong, stable Catholic schools serving this area.

The diocesan training sessions for Cluster Planning and Coordination Teams being held in May and June will provide more information and resources to assist in doing this planning work.

I ask that your Cluster Plan be submitted by 15 October 2008 to me through the District Delegate.

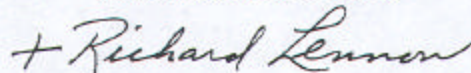
I am appointing priests to serve as District Delegates. They will be responsible to monitor and encourage the work of the Cluster Planning and Coordination Teams in their districts, to receive and review minutes and the attendance list for each assigned cluster, and to report to me about progress being made on a regular basis. The Delegate will appoint a pastor to serve as a convener of the initial meeting in each cluster. The announcement of the District Delegates will be forthcoming.

I ask that you and your parish leaders approach this work in a spirit of prayer and discernment. I hope that we can all be open to the best possible insights for strengthening pastoral care within this cluster area and for building a strong and lasting Catholic presence throughout our diocese. As your Cluster Planning and Coordination Team conducts this planning work, if you believe there are important considerations that need to be addressed with me, please direct them to your District Delegate for forwarding to my office.

I realize that this is can be a very difficult undertaking knowing the great care people have for each of our parishes. It will be very important for all of us to look to the greater good of our diocesan Church.

Please know I remain very grateful for your cooperation as we work together to fulfill the Mission of Christ.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Lennon".

Bishop of Cleveland