

## Cluster 28 Transition Committee

It is no great mystery that the future of our community of faith in this cluster will be dependent on two very pragmatic factors: long-term financial stability and the number of families who participate in the life of our parishes and school. We know that all four institutions are currently financially viable; but it is also true that all live very close to the edge financially. One of our great hopes in consolidating our business offices is that we will be able to realize cost savings in our way of doing business. We also recognize the need for long-range financial planning to become an ongoing activity for us beyond our formal union as a cluster next summer. In this regard, we have already developed a uniform format for budgeting and financial reporting, and we are proceeding with a repairs and maintenance assessment of our buildings.

More important than finances of course, is the participation of families in the life of the cluster. We are currently gathering data to understand better the current level of participation in parish liturgies and programs (the school already has excellent data in this regard). Besides analyzing our records of registered families, we will be doing some counting of Mass attendance in the coming weeks. **These counts are not about seeing which Masses have the most or least attending.** Rather, we are trying to gauge the overall participation of our membership in the life of the cluster. *You can help us in our efforts by using your offertory envelopes regularly (our only means of “taking attendance”) and registering your family, if you have not yet done so.* Thank you in advance for your help.

In our ongoing effort to communicate with you in a regular and transparent manner about our planning, we will continue utilize the bulletin, school news notes/letter, and websites as our first means of our communication. If at any time you have input you wish to share, please feel free to speak with one of the committee members – you can call your parish or school office for contact information. Please continue to keep us and this process in your prayers.