

Dear Parishioners,

On Saturday, 23 April 2016, the representatives of the parishes of St. Agatha and St. Joseph met with Bishop Braxton, Msgr. Jack McEvelly, Vicar General and Msgr. John Myler, Vicar Forane. Those representing St. Agatha were Fr. Jim Nall, Sarah Lanham, Principal, and Lori Main-Sinn, Pastoral Council Chair. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the pastoral plan for the partnership of our parishes. It was a productive and positive meeting.

To date, there are 115 parishes in the diocese. There are 49 active diocesan priests. There are approximately 20 *fide donum* (international priests) priests serving in the diocese. We have only 1 man being ordained to the priesthood this year. We will not have another ordination for 2 to 3 years. With these numbers, it is evident that the parishes of St. Agatha and St. Joseph will be ministered to by 1 priest. With that in mind, the following are but SOME of the observations:

- ❖ One priest DOES NOT mean the merging or closing of the parishes.
- ❖ One priest DOES NOT mean the merging or closing of the schools.
- ❖ Both parishes are to continue to work together as in the past with RCIA, school endeavors, Penance Services, etc.
- ❖ The pastoral councils of both parishes are to meet together on a consistent basis.
- ❖ A Mass schedule is to be developed and implemented.

As we go forward with developing the pastoral plan, information will be disseminated through the parish bulletin, parish website and/or letter.