

CLUSTER 28 TRANSITION COMMITTEE

In the bulletin insert two weeks ago on our September meeting, we reported that we are planning for the consolidation of our business offices into a single office for the beginning of the next fiscal year (begins on July 1, 2010). We repeat our assurance: This does not mean that our financial resources will be merged; for the present, the finances of all three parishes and the school will remain separated so that we can continue to fairly evaluate them and plan effectively into the future. Thus your contributions to the school or one of the parishes will continue to be used for the support of that particular institution.

Rather, a single business office under a cluster business manager will allow us to streamline and standardize our business practices, leverage our contract services and purchasing, oversee volunteers and contributed services, and manage our office and maintenance personnel to the advantage of all four institutions. Thus the four institutions will share the costs of running a single business office to the advantage of all; we will be using our limited resources more wisely. One office will also help us to plan more strategically for the future – one of the most important tasks that we face in the coming years of our community is to continue growing and prospering.

A single business office is one of the strengths of cluster planning in our diocese, and the diocesan leadership has developed models for both the office and a business manager that we are studying to see how they might fit our own needs. We are also looking at what other clusters have already done in this regard so we can, where possible, build on their successes. We expect to have a more specific plan to present you in the early spring.

As always, we pledge to communicate with you in a regular and transparent manner about our planning. We will utilize the bulletin, school news notes/letter, and websites as the first means of this 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.