

A message from Fr. Beal:

Dear Parishioners:

Throughout the ages the Lord has brought His Church through difficult times. He will do the same for us. In our Diocese, almost one half of our clergy is near retirement age. Within five years we will likely have a single priest serving all Catholics in Scioto County. This is a challenging reality, yet we must affirm that God is in control. He is the all-powerful Shepherd of our diocese.

I encourage everyone to view Video presentations sharing clarifying information from the Fall Parish Consultation Sessions, your feedback from the Fall, and the Second Round Draft Models, which are now available at realpresencerealfuture.org. Please watch the video for our parishes and fill out the accompanying survey. Please know that these are not final recommendations and it is important to provide feedback and potential alternatives to these drafts. The survey will be available until June 30.

To be clear, the draft models described, are proposed by the *Real Presence Real Future* initiative. I am not advocating for or defending these drafts, nor are any other pastors in the diocese. These models are given to us to elicit conversation, and gain feedback. I strongly encourage parishioners to take the time to view the online videos, the draft models, and then give your thoughtful input via the online survey, as well let your voice be heard at future in-person sessions.

I also implore all parishioners to pray for our future Bishop. May Almighty God send us a man after His own heart, to lead us steadfastly. I want all parishioners to know that as your pastor, no matter what the bishop decides, I am wholeheartedly committed with you to growing our faith family. Together we will do God's will, harness our energy, while letting God provide robust Catholicism. On our own we can do nothing, but in Christ we can do all things through Him who strengthens us.

In the Love of the Trinity,

Fr. Beal