

*At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Mt 9:36-38*

I know many have been praying for quite some time for God to send more laborers for His harvest here on the eastside of Detroit. I have good news for everyone. He continues to hear our prayers.

Over two years ago, the archbishop asked the Josephite fathers to send priests to help serve the churches on the eastside of Detroit. Although excited about the prospect, the Josephites did not have any priests available to send to us.

Due to the reorganization of the diocese of Baltimore, now they do have two priests available. Therefore, on February 5<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Francis Asomkase, SSJ and Rev. Ifiok Wisdom Umanah, SSJ will arrive in our family of parishes. They will stay at St. Charles Borromeo for the time being and help supply the needs of the whole family.

Over the next several months, we will embark on a journey of strategic planning that will determine the best way to organize the parishes and ministries in order to best utilize these two instruments of God's love. I ask everyone to enter into this new adventure with open minds and hearts so God may continue to bless us with His abundance.

Over the next several weekends, starting February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Francis and Fr. Ifiok will be introduced at the different Masses throughout the family of parishes. Then they will enter the rotation of priests presiding at Masses. Please make them feel at home as they settle in and get to know their surroundings.

I give thanks to God for bringing us this great blessing and am hope filled for what the future will hold for us with these two new priests to help with the harvest of God flock.

Peace and Love in Christ,  
Fr. Chris  
Moderator