



Here are a few words about The Church Alive endeavor.

We all find it most frustrating that the bishop is re-aligning the diocese by merging some parishes and suppressing many other parishes. The recent survey we took on the 3rd weekend of May indicated that 80% of those responding (28 of the 35 respondents) in St. Isaac's parish felt (among other objections) that the distance they would have to drive was too much of a burden. If one had to drive to McMurray (to St. Benedict the Abbot campus) from St. Isaacs, it certainly **WOULD** be asking too much! **However**, if this 'grouping' were to become a reality, the parishioners of St. Isaac would drive to the closer parish (campus), St. Francis of Assisi, the distance the priests have been driving for years.

In the anxiety of such 'changes,' one asks **WHY** the bishop is doing all this in the first place. (Well, I am glad you asked that question!) Truth be told, the bishop doesn't have much choice. Actuaries tell us that, in the near future, there will be a very serious shortage of active priests. Soon, we will have a mere 80 to 90 priests, opposed to the current 200+ priests active in the diocese. This is an often overlooked reality, harsh as it may be. When we go from 200+ priests to 85, were you the bishop, what would **YOU** do? (Remember, 'importing' foreign-born priests presents a major language barrier.)

This harsh reality must be factored in to our vision for the future. Will such 'reality' make us bitter or better? We must endeavor to trust in God, an expression of our faith in God!

Bitter or better?

May peace come into our hearts.—fr.t.