

November 10, 2009

Dear Friends,

On All Saints' Day, I provided a brief update at the 10 am service on the Rector search. I thought that I would share that message in written form so that everyone has a sense of how the search is progressing.

Since our last communication at the end of August, the search committee has been working diligently reviewing candidate materials. We are meeting about every two weeks and also working virtually through the help of a secure web site. We have had a great deal of interest in the opportunity to lead St. Mary's and have received over 50 applications from an impressive group of clergy. Our official period of receiving applications will end on November 15, but we will of course both welcome and give serious consideration to any strong, last minute entrants.

We are now focusing on the evaluation of a select group of contenders. We are gathering additional information from them and will be proceeding with preliminary interviews in the coming weeks. At this stage, we are encouraged by both the quality and depth of the candidate pool. The many strengths that St. Mary's has to offer are attracting some very talented clergy leaders to consider our parish as they discern their next steps in God's service.

Our warm and welcoming community, our rich music program, our lovely and well maintained historical church building and grounds, our engaged youth, and our healthy financial condition are all aspects of St. Mary's that candidates have highlighted in their letters of interest. As members of the search committee, we are grateful for the stewardship of our fellow parishioners, now and in the past, who, through their generous gifts of talent, time, and treasure, have made St. Mary's such a vibrant and appealing parish.

I am also deeply grateful for the hard work and commitment of the members of the search committee. Tricia Blank, Steve Campbell, Jean Dalton, Jeff Hughes, Martha McGandy, Mike Stevens, Peter Ramsey, Tom Riley, Sarah Williamson, and Ann Wessel are giving their considerable talents and precious time to this

important effort. I know you join me in deep appreciation for their contributions and dedication to St. Mary's.

We will be continuing our work over the coming months and, as you know, this part of the process needs to remain confidential. Please do contact any of us, however, if you have concerns, questions, or suggestions. We value the confidence you have placed in us, welcome your prayers in our support, and look forward to keeping you posted on our progress over the coming months.

Peace,  
Vivian

Vivian Brocard  
Chair, Rector Search Committee