

Dear Friends,

Last month all Peoria priests received a letter from the coadjutor bishop, Bishop Louis Tylka. Having been in the diocese for over a year, the bishop expressed his great joy at having witnessed the thriving Catholic community here in central Illinois. However, he still wants to learn more. To facilitate greater discovery of the diocese's strengths and, yes, weaknesses, he is hoping to solicit the opinions of God's people from each and every one of the diocese's 157 parish churches. Both trustees, Bill Carman and Anita Kale, and two additional parishioners, have been tasked with making this process a reality. These four individuals will give a 5-minute verbal presentation, along with a detailed written report, to Bishop Tylka personally next month. No priests (other than Bishop Lou) will be present for the individual parish presentations.

Our team has requested that I reach out to the St. Mary's family and ask all of you to consider the four questions Bishop Tylka would like addressed. They are listed below. You can email Anita Kale (anitakale10@gmail.com), one of our trustees, should you decide to answer any, or all, of the questions. Please respond by Thursday, September 9th. I apologize for the relatively short notice. Please be candid. Your responses will be kept confidential within the committee, and a general synopsis shared with the Bishop.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to assist us. Keep in mind that Bishop Lou is genuinely concerned to learn what YOU, the laity in the pews, think and feel about the spiritual wellbeing of the Peoria Diocese. Any prayerful thoughts that you share will be much appreciated and contribute immensely to the betterment of our parish and diocese.

–Fr. Jim

1. What do you see as the greatest opportunity for the Church today?
2. What do you consider to be the greatest challenge we are facing in the Church today?
3. Name the top three priorities you are addressing in your parish?
4. What specific advice would you give to your new bishop about the Diocese of Peoria?