

## NEW PARISHES/MERGED PARISHES

The formation of a new Catholic Parish to service the Archdiocese of Louisville is extremely costly. To assist in the development, the Archdiocese, subject to the approval of the Finance Council and Archbishop, will provide a grant to reduce some of the purchase price of the land/real estate. The maximum amount of a grant given by the Archdiocese, with final approval by the Archbishop or unless amended by the Archbishop, is limited to 25% of the purchase price of the land/real estate not to exceed \$500,000.

This policy applies to the creation of all new parishes and all merged parishes that are relocated and established in a new geographical area to serve a 'regional' Catholic population.

### **Merged Parishes**

Merged parishes can be defined as two or more parishes combining to form one religious community. According to Canon Law Section 121, all goods and property formerly belonging to the distinct parishes revert to the new parish. Likewise, all existing debts and liabilities pass from the formerly existing parishes to the one new parish. Therefore, ecclesiastical goods and obligations remain those of the new parish. Should the new parish wish to sell some of the property or goods belonging to the former parishes, it is free to do so, taking into consideration the canonical limits of alienation.

The above grant of assistance from the Archdiocese is only available to merged parishes that relocate to a new geographical area.