

Today we hear about the call of Samuel, Andrew and Peter. The Lord calls and the individuals respond. The Lord calls 3 times before Samuel realizes it is the Lord calling. Samuel responds by saying, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

At this time in the Diocese of Saginaw, our Bishop and Diocesan leaders are seeking to hear how the Lord is calling us. We are at a time of discernment. A great deal of what is in process can be found in the Bishop's Pastoral Letter: A Future Full of Hope.

There will be presentations, Town Hall Meetings and enormous amounts of data collected. Each parish will provide input regarding its strengths, blessings and gifts. Each parish will give suggestions concerning working with other parish communities. We've had an excellent start with our experience as a cluster.

The Lord is speaking to each of us as individuals. Each of us has something to say, to contribute, to share in this process. It is important for us to speak up and voice our thoughts, concerns, values and ideas. It is important for us to participate as best we can.

And the Lord is speaking to us as a parish community. St. Hedwig's is unique and has special gifts. We contribute to a Future Full of Hope when we present our uniqueness, gifts and blessings to the Core Committee. We share our GOOD NEWS as a Faith Community. This, too, is very important. This is why our participation is so vital.

At the same time, we as individuals and as a community need to pray. We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We pray for God's blessings upon our efforts. We pray for HOPE to be with us as we address difficult issues and discover creative avenues in which to continue on the faith journey.

My sisters and brothers: Our prayer can be the words of Samuel. They are good any time of the day or night. "Speak, Lord, for your servant and community are listening."