

**Blessed Sacrament, Christ the Redeemer, St. Mary's**

**Bulletin Announcement – August 6-7, 2011**

**An update from the Strategic Planning Ministry Committee on the results of the May parishioner survey and next steps** – Thank you to all the parishioners who filled out the survey at Masses or on-line during May—there were 1148 of you! The ministry committee, meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> to analyze your input, identified particular strengths of the Elmira parishes (Blessed Sacrament, Christ the Redeemer and St. Mary's) and areas where we could work together to improve our ministries. Strengths of our parishes: the celebration of Mass, religious education for children and Catholic schools, being welcoming communities, and our work for social justice including supporting the efforts of Catholic Charities. Some areas where we could improve: bereavement support, catechesis of teens and youth ministry, young adult ministry, ministry to shut-ins, reaching out to inactive Catholics, ministry to strengthen marriage and family, and ministry to the divorced/separated. The committee next will meet with the pastors to discuss these results and establish priorities. We plan to hold town meetings in September to update parishioners and seek your ideas. Please continue to pray for our parishes and for the wisdom to see where God is leading our communities.