

Pastoral Planning Update



St. Lambert Catholic Parish

Date: *June 15, 2010*

Update...

The sixth meeting of the Sioux Falls Central Study Group was held on June 3rd at St. Therese Parish.

Deacon Roger Heidt presented a map of all the parishes that indicated the increase or decrease in Mass attendance between the 2008 and 2010 counts. These maps were a good visual representation of the changing Mass attendance in each parish. For those interested, the maps are available to view at www.sfcatholic.org/dwc/Files/PastoralPlan/Documents/Historical%20Trend%20Analysis%20Report.pdf (page 12).

Deacon Roger also reported that for the upcoming year the number of priests in the Sioux Falls parishes will remain unchanged.

+3 ordinations
+1 priest returning from sabbatical
-2 priests to retire
-1 priest to return to native country
-1 priest taking a leave of absence

Additional Parish Proposals

After the last meeting, two parish proposals remained to be presented. Deacon Roger presented that proposal from Risen Savior Parish. The pastoral planning representative from Holy Spirit Parish presented the Holy Spirit proposal. Some additional new ideas presented include the following:

- Link Harrisburg with Canton and Tea

- Appoint Vocations Director to serve as chaplain at O’Gorman High School
- Use parish administrators to ease administrative burden of priests
- Establish city-wide RCIA, including more lay involvement
- Establish a pilot program for family faith formation to replace current CCD program

Results of Our Efforts

You may recall from the last Pastoral Planning Update, one of the recommendations to Bishop Swain was to create a diocesan-wide office of coordinated ministries including the chaplaincy needs. Deacon Roger announced that in response to this and other recommendations, Bishop Swain has decided that some changes are warranted. These changes were announced in this month’s issue of the Bishops Bulletin. The following is an excerpt from that article.

“Through the pastoral planning process, in listening to priests and other parish leaders, diocesan staff and my own sense of the needs and priorities of the diocese have made clear the need to make some adjustments,” said Bishop Swain.

Communications and Social Ministries will bring together all communication services as well as Catholic Family Services, Pro-Life and Family ministry, stewardship, and relationships with Catholic and community organizations. Jerry Klein will be the delegate for this area and direct Catholic Family Services.

The details of the reorganization will evolve over the next several months but

will be in place as the pastoral plan results begin to be implemented across the diocese.

Developing a Group Proposal

Under the direction of Deacon Roger, we began the process of developing consensus for a group proposal.

This process will include a review of all the recommendations and identifying those on which we have high agreement and will ultimately be included in the recommendation to Bishop Swain.

We hope that by the end of the July meeting, we will have discussed all recommendations and be ready to draft the proposal for the Sioux Falls Central Study Group.

Contact Information

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Prayer for Pastoral Planning

Almighty God, we the people of the Diocese of Sioux Falls prayerfully look to the future. During this time of pastoral planning, we implore the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us the gifts of wisdom, courage and hope.

May we exercise the virtue of prudence by opening our hearts and minds to be good stewards of the legacy of faith inherited from those who built the Church on the prairie;

May we exercise the virtue of justice by opening our hearts and minds to assure that the voices of persons from all generations, all vocations and all areas of the diocese are welcomed and respected;

May we exercise the virtue of fortitude by opening our hearts and minds to understand and acknowledge the spiritual and practical realities of our day and prepare for the days to come; and

May we exercise the virtue of temperance by opening our hearts and minds to accept the changes in diocesan, parish and personal life that the Holy Spirit, through this planning process, is guiding us to make.

Under the protection of Blessed Mary, our Mother, and St. Joseph, our patron, may we discern and implement what is best for the diocesan Church and all the faithful of Eastern South Dakota.

We pray this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Next Meeting Information

- Date:** Thursday, July 8
Time: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Holy Spirit Parish
Topics: Completing the Sioux Falls Study Group Proposal