

Pastoral Planning Update



St. Lambert Catholic Parish

Date: *January 24, 2010*

Thank You...

We would like to thank Father Mason and the pastoral council for allowing us to have the honor and responsibility of representing St. Lambert Parish as parish representatives on the Pastoral Planning Process for the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

The responsibilities of your parish representatives are:

- participate actively in the Area Study Group meetings
- identify special facts or circumstances in our parish
- communicate with the parish
- report back and seek the consultation of the parish after each meeting
- help develop an implementation plan once Bishop Swain has accepted a proposal

To that end, we plan to publish this Pastoral Planning Update after each of the Study Group meetings.

We encourage all parishioners to contact us directly with any input, concerns, questions and ideas that you have. We can be reached at

nlais@sio.midco.net

334-0485
4109 E 22nd St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

We are looking forward to serving you in this important endeavor.

Noel & Mary Lais

Pastoral Planning Process – What is It?

As we prepare to celebrate our 125th Anniversary in 2014, the intent for the Diocese of Sioux Falls is that our local church will be a stronger, more visible and more united presence in eastern South Dakota. In October 2007, Bishop Paul Swain initiated a Pastoral Planning process for the Diocese of Sioux Falls. On January 1, 2009, Bishop Swain issued a Pastoral Letter “To Hold and Teach the Catholic Faith” outlining a vision for the diocese by the year 2014.

The core goals of that vision include:

- Regular access to the Sacraments, especially the Most Holy Eucharist, throughout the entire Diocese
- Solid Catholic Faith formation for all ages throughout the Diocese
- The opportunity to gather as a people of faith in vibrant and viable parishes, while at the same time assuring
- The physical and spiritual health and well-being of our priests.

A series of meetings will be held over the next several months to discuss and gather feedback. All meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend.

The Reality of our Day

Fewer priests:

2008 – 92 active priests

2009 – 89 active priests

2012 – 71 projected active priests

2016 – 55 projected active priests

Demographic Shifts:

Population decline in most areas
Population growth in some areas
Aging in many areas
Relocation from rural to city

Mass Attendance:

Many liturgies sparsely attended

Fewer children:

Families are smaller

Suggested Plan:

Through a collaborative effort including a series of facilitated regional meetings and consultation with the Priest Council, Diocesan Planning Committee and Diocesan staff coupled with objective statistical information, a proposed plan has been created. The suggested plan for the Central Study Group, which is comprised of the ten Sioux Falls parishes and Risen Savior Parish in Brandon, include among other options:

- No fulltime chaplains (hospitals, hospices, prison/jail, and schools)
- No associates at St. Michael or St. Lambert Parishes
- No more than three Sunday liturgies celebrated at each parish (including the Saturday Vigil)

This is only a suggested plan. No final decisions will be made until the completion of the Planning Process, which now moves into the phase of scheduled meetings of the Study Groups.

More information can be found at www.diocese-of-sioux-falls.org

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, February 4th
Time: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Location: St. Lambert Parish - Gymnasium