

Pastoral Planning Update



St. Lambert Catholic Parish

Date: *March 14, 2010*

Update...

Since the last newsletter, we have held our third meeting on March 4th at Christ the King Parish. This meeting was one of the best attended so far. We thank everyone who made the effort to be there and strongly encourage all parishioners to play an active role in this process by attending future meetings.

The two main topics of this meeting were:

- Role of chaplains
- Financial overview

Chaplains

A panel of four chaplains and Tom Lorang, Superintendent of the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools gave a very enlightening presentation on the chaplaincy programs of the Sioux Falls Study Group Area.

We learned that priest chaplains preside at the celebration of the Mass, Baptism, Reconciliation, Anointing and even Matrimony. One of the most eye opening pieces of information was the great number of needs for chaplain services in our community. These include:

- Avera McKennan Hospital
- Sanford Hospital
- Avera Behavioral Health
- VA Hospital
- Avera Heart Hospital
- Dougherty Hospice
- Sanford Hospice
- O'Gorman High School
- 3 Prisons in Sioux Falls
- 3 Prisons outside of Sioux Falls

- 9 Nursing homes (including Prince of Peace)
- 13 assisted living facilities

Dr. Lorang explained that in addition to the daily liturgies and ministering to the students, the chaplain at O'Gorman High School administers to the needs of the staff as well. It was also pointed out that the witness of a priest to high school students is a wonderful opportunity to ignite the spark of vocations.

Additionally, it was pointed out that within the eight colleges and technical schools in Sioux Falls, there are over 9,000 students enrolled. Currently Sioux Falls does not have a Newman Center to minister to the needs of Catholic college students.

Mike Bannwarth, Director of Finance for the Diocese, presented a scenario of how a Newman Center might be funded.

With this great need, it seemed very evident to us that a plan to reduce or eliminate chaplains should also include a very intentional plan to somehow fill the chaplain needs in Sioux Falls. One idea that was presented was to create a Chaplain Ministry teams which would include priests, deacons and lay people. If chaplaincy services are going to fall in the hands of the local parishes, it was suggested that these efforts be coordinated to avoid duplication of efforts or going without needed services at some facilities.

The reality is that not too far in the future we may be facing greatly reduced number of priests. What thoughts do you have about how to meet the chaplaincy needs in the Sioux Falls Area?

Financial Overview

In keeping with the following stated Pastoral Planning objectives

- Aid to Planning
- Broader Church
- Informed decision
- Transparency
- Focus on Financial Stability

Mike Bannwarth gave a summary financial presentation of each of the parishes in the Sioux Falls Area Study Group.

Vocation Facts

Fr. Paul Rutten has been appointed as full time Vocation Director.

Vocation Ministry is being done through Operation Andrew dinners, Serra Club, College Connections, FOCUS, etc.

In addition, vocation work is being done for women religious and the deacon program.

In the Sioux Falls Diocese there are currently 22 seminarians. Currently we expect to have 3 ordained in 2010, 5 in 2011 and 2 in 2012. Statistics show that nationally 30% of seminarians are not ordained.

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, April 8th
Time: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Risen Savior - Brandon
Topics: Review of other diocesan plans, priest/pastor role, Sacramental needs