

Pastoral Planning Update



St. Lambert Catholic Parish

Date: August 28, 2010

Update...

The seventh meeting of the Sioux Falls Central Study Group was held on July 8th at Holy Spirit and the eighth meeting was held on July 29th at Our Lady of Guadalupe. At these meetings, the final draft of Study Group's recommendation to be Bishop Swain was written. The following are excerpts from the recommendation.

Summary

Parish Representatives from the eleven parishes met eight times over a seven-month period from January 2010 through July 2010. A member of the Harrisburg community was asked to participate with the parish representatives as a non-voting member of the Study Group. After the initial meeting at St. Michael's with the North (8 parishes) and South (6 parishes) Study Groups, the meetings were held at St. Lambert's, Christ the King, Risen Savior, St. Mary's, St. Therese, Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Guadalupe. The meetings were publicized and open to all members of the affected parishes. Each meeting included an opportunity for parishioners attending to ask questions or to make any comments. One meeting (see minutes meeting #3, March 2010) focused on the special chaplaincy ministries, specifically Health Care, Prison/Jail and Catholic schools. Presentations on the various ministries were by Fr. A.W. Ramos, Fr. Greg Frankman, Fr. James Zimmer and Dr. Thomas Lorang.

In addition to the original proposal presented as a part of the Pastoral Planning process, seventeen additional proposals were developed, reviewed and discussed

(Attachment 5). The strengths, weaknesses, benefits, and risks of each proposal were included in the review. This report documents the deliberations and recommendation of the eleven parish representatives and Harrisburg representative.

Primary Recommendations:

The primary recommendations of the Sioux Falls Central Area Study Group are as follows:

1. *Our Lady of Guadalupe parish be merged with St. Joseph's Cathedral and retain their own Councils and would be physically located at the Cathedral.*
Vote was 7-3,
2. *Our Lady of Guadalupe parish would have 1 year from the date of the decision to develop an operational plan to demonstrate the ability to support other activities at its current site or the facilities would be closed.* Vote was 8-1.
3. *Priests would be assigned as follows:*
St. Joseph's Cathedral—2 priests
Holy Spirit—2 priests
St. Michael's—2 priests
St. Lambert—1 priest
Risen Savior—1 priest
Christ the King—1 priest
St. Mary's—1 priest
St. Therese—1 priest
St. Katharine Drexel—1 priest
Vote was 7-1- with 1 abstention
4. *Initiate a study no later than 2012 on the feasibility of a parish in Harrisburg.*
Vote 5-3 with 1 abstention.
5. *Study having lay people serve as Parish Administrators (i.e. Business Managers) -Free up priests to focus on ministry vs administrative tasks*

- Could have one administrator for 2 parishes (one large parish and one smaller parish)* Vote 9-0
- 6. *The health care, prison and school ministries by assigned priests are an important ministry of the Diocese of Sioux Falls and should be maintained at a minimum of the current staffing.*
- 7. *The need for more catechetical and spiritual formation opportunities for the laity in the Sioux Falls area to assist priests in areas such as, but not limited to religious education, evangelization and bible study.*
Vote 9-0
- 8. *Recruit and promote the addition of other priests for assistance in the Sioux Falls area, for example, a Spanish speaking priest to serve the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe at its present site* Vote 3-6

- provide access to a Sunday-Obligation Mass with no more than 20 minute drive time for parishioners,
- priests to preside at no more than 3 Sunday-Obligation Masses per weekend
- insure the physical & non-physical health of priests

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.

Secondary Recommendations:

- The Diocese of Sioux Falls maintains its commitment to providing chaplains for military service.
- The diocese continues to review, possibly through a task force, an initiative to adopt a form of the Green Bay model for future structures in the diocese.
- Investigate the feasibility of establishing a Newman Club at Christ the King. Vote 6-2-with 1 abstention.

Planning Criteria

This proposal meets the criteria established by Bishop Swain, the salient aspects of which are:

- reduction from 16 priests to 12
- prison/jail and health care chaplaincies would be maintained by diocese
- maintain access to the Sacraments, especially the Sunday-Obligation Mass,
- provide access to faith formation for all ages,
- maintain vibrant and viable parishes,