



Parish, seminary and school review

Preparing to meet the needs of our transforming communities

We entrust to Mary this project, that through her intercession, we may seek only your will, Father, and surrender in loving trust to you.

Why is this review being conducted?

- To discover how we can best respond to demographic changes in the Fargo metro area through parish boundary refinements, new construction, and other opportunities
- To determine whether the current ministerial focus of church and school properties is feasible and sustainable based on changing demographics or whether the focus should change
- To ensure accessibility to a Catholic school education for more children in our transforming communities
- To determine the best use for the Cardinal Muench Seminary facility
- To review and possibly reconfigure the organizational structure of the diocesan offices to enhance service to our priests, parishes and the faithful
- To encourage input from all involved to ensure effective evangelization of God's people in the Fargo, West Fargo, Horace and Kindred areas

Announcement of proposal for parishes and schools in Fargo, West Fargo and Horace

Since the gathering of information for the Parish, Seminary and School Review began in June 2010, two findings have consistently come to the forefront in demographics studies and news reports: 1) Population continues to move toward and grow within the area to the south and west of Fargo; and 2) That population includes a large number of children.

These findings point to the need for a focused parish presence in that area, as well as an increased Catholic school presence.

Just as the structure and organization of parishes in the rural areas of the Diocese of Fargo were reviewed some time ago, so too is there a need to evaluate the structure and organization of parishes and Catholic schools in the Fargo metro area in light of growth and shifts in population.

Based upon the extensive study of demographic, economic, parish and Catholic school information and consideration of input provided thus far from consultative groups, a proposal has been developed with a focus on ensuring the most effective proclamation of the Gospel in the Fargo metro area. This proposal, formulated by a review team of diocesan and school staff and Bishop Samuel Aquila, with guidance from the consultant, is outlined in the following paragraphs.

This proposal addresses parishes and schools in Fargo, West Fargo and Horace. (Note: Kindred was also included in the overall review; however, no changes are proposed in Kindred other than

refinement of parish boundaries. St. Paul's Newman Center is not directly affected by this proposal.)

Readers should keep in mind that this is a proposal for which further consultation is sought. Meetings have been scheduled (see the following page) through which parishioners and Catholic school families can seek clarification and provide input.

A separate proposal for the **Cardinal Muench Seminary** facility will be announced on March 12, with a meeting where the faithful can provide input on March 26.

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Parishes

The proposal includes several proposed changes for parishes, which will be addressed in greater detail with the faithful at the February meetings and through further written communications.

- The first part of the proposal addresses all parishes in Fargo, West Fargo and Horace and is two-fold. It is proposed that 1) **parish boundaries for all parishes in Fargo, West Fargo and Horace be refined** and 2) **all parishes participate in the Catholic school system subsidy at a common percentage of budget, transitioning to that point over time.** Although some people travel outside of their parish boundaries for Mass, the boundaries are important. They define those geographical areas for which each parish is responsible. Regarding the Catholic school system subsidy, most but not all of the metro area parishes currently participate as sponsoring schools. *Continued on the following page*

Loving Father, help us to discover the best way to serve and to provide for the sacramental life of the faithful, and to teach our young people the gift of the Catholic faith.

Timeline

January-February 2011

Gather feedback on the proposal for parishes and schools; review Diocesan Pastoral Center organizational structure, staffing and position responsibilities; continue reviewing possible uses for the Cardinal Muench facility

March-April 2011

Finalize a plan of action for the parishes and schools and the Diocesan Pastoral Center; announce a proposal for the Cardinal Muench facility on March 12 and gather feedback at a public meeting on March 26; provide Catholic schools outside of the metro area with data for their own planning purposes

May 2011

Announce Bishop Aquila's decisions for the parishes, schools, Pastoral Center, seminary facility and any other related decisions and begin implementation

What has been completed:

Months prior to April 2010

Bishop Aquila consulted with the College of Consultors, Diocesan Finance Council, Seminary Finance Council and Deans of the diocese

April 2010

Announced discontinuation of the seminary program and the review of Fargo, West Fargo, Horace and Kindred churches and schools

May 2010

Selected TeamWorks International, Inc., as the consultant to guide the study, and expanded the study to include all Catholic schools in the diocese and the organizational structure of the Pastoral Center

June-December 2010

Gathered and analyzed data, developed outcome guidelines, and developed and assessed proposal for consideration

Proposal for parishes and schools continued....

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- It is proposed that **Holy Cross and Blessed Sacrament parishes in West Fargo merge, with the worship space at the current Holy Cross location being expanded.** This proposal calls for the eventual closure of the Blessed Sacrament facility.

- It is proposed that **St. Benedict's parish relocates to the new, undeveloped property at County Road 17 and 64th Ave. S., Horace.**

- It is proposed that **St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Anthony of Padua parish in Fargo cluster,** with the parishes being served by one pastoral staff.

Catholic schools

The proposal also includes proposed changes for the Catholic schools.

- It is proposed that there be **four K-5 elementary schools.** Currently, the Catholic school system has two elementary schools: Holy Spirit School

and Nativity School. **It is proposed that a new elementary school be added to Holy Cross Church and another be added to St. Benedict's Church at the new property site,** with the Holy Cross school having the capacity for one classroom per grade level and the St. Benedict's school having the capacity for two classrooms per grade level when complete.

This proposal was announced to priests in the Fargo metro area on Saturday, Jan. 15, and will be presented to those in parish and school leadership positions and parish and diocesan staff on Jan. 17. As was noted earlier, meetings for input from the faithful are scheduled in the coming weeks (see below). All are encouraged to provide feedback by attending these meetings. One may also email questions and comments via the website address noted at the bottom of this page, but the process is better assisted by input at the meetings.

Date	Type of meeting	Goals
Tues, Feb. 1, or Thurs., Feb. 3, from 7-9:30 p.m., or Sat., Feb. 5 from 9-11:30 a.m. (need attend only one, information is repeated)	For parishioners of any parishes included in the study, parish staff, Catholic school staff and families: Feb. 1 (evening) at St. Anthony's social hall; Feb. 3 (evening) at Sts. Anne & Joachim's social hall; Feb. 5 (morning) at Holy Cross' Crossway Center	This is an initial meeting which will provide an overview of the proposal and will have a time for questions and answers to clarify aspects of the proposal. Key messages from this initial meeting will be carried forward to the following meeting.
Tues, Feb. 15, or Thurs., Feb. 17, from 7-9:30 p.m., or Sat., Feb. 19 from 9-11:30 a.m. (need attend only one, information is repeated)	For parishioners of any parishes included in the study, parish staff, Catholic school staff and families: Feb. 15 (evening) at Holy Cross' Crossway Center, Feb. 17 (evening) at St. Anthony's social hall; Feb. 19 (morning) at Sts. Anne & Joachim's social hall	In this meeting, the proposal will be more deeply assessed, looking at benefits, concerns, questions and ideas for refinement. This meeting will provide a valuable means of consultation on the proposal.