



Autumn 2005

## District 3 - Walworth County, Racine & Kenosha Counties west of I-94

### **God's People in southeastern Wisconsin are committed to ensuring**

- Access to the Eucharist in its totality, namely Word, Sacrament, Service and Community for all the faithful
- Opportunities to live Eucharistic lives through practice of spiritual and corporal works of mercy
- Wise stewardship of our human and temporal resources.

### **Regarding Your District Directives**

We have seen and heard the ways you have advanced the Gospel through....

- Organizing a "juntos" model for Hispanic Ministry by the parishes in your District.
- Developing and promoting many and varied opportunities for faith formation for all ages
- Beginning to assess the impact of rail and highway development on your area and in your parishes

We witness the growing number of parishes in your area who share pastors. This is a significant adjustment for pastors, parish staff members and parishioners. We strongly encourage the district to study and adapt if advisable, your liturgical schedules, sacramental workloads, ministerial needs within parishes that share pastors, within clusters and the district.

We have heard and informed St. Francis Seminary of your suggestion/request for greater visibility and course offerings within your district.

### **Moving Forward on Our Journey of Faith Together**

We heard, understand and agree with the universally shared opinion that there were too many district-wide directives in the 2004 plan. Therefore, we invite you to focus on the six archdiocesan priorities offered to us by Archbishop Dolan in 2004 as stated below.

#### **1. Grow in Holiness**

- Eucharist is the "source and summit" of our lives. To ensure the highest quality of liturgical celebrations, employ or share a full-time director of liturgy and music. Make a commitment to training and forming all liturgical ministers. Develop a repertoire of music for use at all liturgies to enhance the full conscious and active participation by the faithful at liturgy. (on-going)
- Continue or adjust weekend Mass schedules that provide access to the Eucharist over a span of time each weekend within the district. (On-going)



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- If you have not already done so, either as a district, a cluster, or a parish form an evangelization committee. Offer the committee formation resources from the Office for Evangelization (By June, 2006). Ask the Committee to develop a 3-year evangelization plan and be prepared to implement it not later than September, 2007.
- As a district or in clusters, offer a variety of ways for people to grow spiritually through study, reflection, small group faith sharing, communal prayer and devotions. Promote these offerings throughout the district. (On-going)

#### **2. Strengthen our parishes**

- Employ qualified professionals to serve and support the pastoral and administrative ministries of the parish and or cluster. (On-going)
- Promote the healing ministry of Christ and foster holistic health and wellness within the parish by using the expertise of a parish nurse or sharing one with other parishes. (On-going)

#### **3. Strengthen Catholic Education and Lifelong Faith Formation**

- Support and encourage parents as first educators of their children. (On-going)
- Develop a district-wide plan where every parish in the district, with and without schools, will contribute to the support Catholic elementary and secondary schools. (By February, 2006 to implement in 2006-07 school year.)
- Strengthen catechetical ministry. Recruit, train and support faithful catechists. Invest children with a strong sense of Catholic identity rooted in the Church's sacramental life. (On-going)

#### **4. Develop a "Culture of Vocations"**

- Educate the faithful about God's universal call to holiness. (On-going)
- Encourage, invite, train and form all lay ministers in the parish. (On-going)
- Urge effective lay ministers to seek certification or higher education for ministry through one of the seminaries, colleges or universities ministry programs. Offers some financial support toward their degree. (Parishioners & parish Finance Committees)
- Support those discerning a call to ministry by prayer—individual and communal, mentoring/companioning, and genuine and repeated invitations to consider a vocation to ordained priesthood and diaconate, and to religious life. (On-going)



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- The Archdiocesan recruitment goal is a minimum of 68 new seminarians or religious in formation by the year 2009, which is about .0001 of our Catholic Population. This district is challenged by the Archdiocesan Vocations office for the recruitment of 3 seminarians or novices by 2009.

**5. Emphasize our Mission of Justice and Charity**

- Preach about and teach the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (On-going)
- Use the talents and services of parish deacons, human concerns ministers and committees, to continually help parishes and clusters contribute to the social ministry of the Church as we build the reign of God. (On-going)
- Contribute generously to the combined collections in response to the needs of the poor in our church and our world (Annually)
- Support justice efforts of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference

**6. Stewardship**

- As good stewards, share your human and material resources with people in need in the local, national and international Church. (On-going)
- Because plans and circumstances change over time, continue the planning process. Work with your district Dean, your Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) member, your parish consultant(s), the Vicar for Planning, Fr. Brian Mason to discern, design and implement and evaluate your plans to address these archdiocesan priorities. In April, 2006 you will provide another progress report to the Implementation Commission.



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### District 3 - Walworth County, Racine & Kenosha Counties west of I-94

To District 3 Cluster Parishes

- St. Mary, Pell Lake
- St. Benedict, Fontana
- St. Catherine, Sharon
- St. Francis de Sales, Lake Geneva
- St. Andrew, Delavan
- St. Patrick, Elkhorn
- St. Peter, East Troy

***G**race to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right that I should think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, you who are all partners with me in grace,*

*Philippians 1: 2-7*

We commend you for your efforts to strengthen Hispanic Ministry within the District.

We hear and understand the challenges you face as such a large cluster given distances, demographics, financial concerns and leadership needs. We suggest that you explore the possibility of forming 2-3 clusters so as to work more effectively. We continue to offer the assistance of your new parish consultant, Catherine O'Neill, and other archdiocesan personnel as you consider this option and your future collaborative plans.

We've heard about St. Benedict Parish's "Dream Team" and would enjoy hearing more details about their work.

We encourage St. Peter Parish to move toward completion of their pastoral and worship space plans.

We are concerned that St. Mary and St. Catherine might be left out of the planning circles. We encourage the council of St. Mary, Pell Lake to make an effort to initiate dialogue with the leadership of St. Francis de Sales, Lake Geneva, to get to know each other and discuss common concerns.

We continue to offer the assistance of your new parish consultant, Catherine O'Neill, and other archdiocesan staff to all of you as you work to bring life to Christ's mission.



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### District 3 - Walworth County, Racine & Kenosha Counties west of I-94

To the District 3 Cluster Parishes

- St. Mary, Kansasville, Racine County
- St. Robert, Union Grove, Racine County
- St. John the Baptist, Paris, Kenosha County
- St. Francis Xavier, Brighton, Kenosha County

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*Philippians 1: 2-7*

We commend you for your efforts to work with the neighboring parishes in Kenosha and Racine Counties to support and strengthen Hispanic Ministry.

We are aware that you are going through a period of pastoral transition. We recognize it will take time for renewing partnerships and building strong bonds between and among your parishes. Thank you for your patience with one another!

We understand the challenges you face with projected population growth, financial concerns and pastoral needs. We encourage the Vicar for Planning to meet with your district and with a representative(s) of SWRPAC to learn what land, road and rail development is planned in District 3 and how it will affect parish life in the next 10-20 years.

We continue to offer the assistance of your new parish consultant, Catherine O'Neill, and other archdiocesan staff as you meet together and develop collaborative plans for the future of your parishes.



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**District 3 - Walworth County, Racine & Kenosha Counties west of I-94**

To District 3

- St. Patrick, Whitewater

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*Philippians 1: 2-7*

We commend you not only on your fine parish ministry, and outreach as University of Wisconsin-Whitewater- Campus Ministry, but for your efforts to support Hispanic Ministry efforts within the County.

We understand the potential challenges and opportunities ahead with projected land, road and rail development in District 3. We encourage the Vicar for Planning to convene your district with a representative(s) of SWRPAC to learn what development is planned, where, and to begin to consider how it will affect parish life in the next 10-20 years.



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**District 3 - Walworth County, Racine & Kenosha Counties west of I-94**

To District 3 Cluster Parishes

- St. Joseph, Lyons
- St. Mary, Burlington
- St. Charles, Burlington

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*Philippians 1: 2-7*

We commend each parish for your efforts to support and strengthen Hispanic Ministry efforts in your area.

We commend St. Joseph Parish, Lyons on their growth and plans regarding building usage. We realize that you experienced a pastoral transition in June. We hope you continue on the road of growth.

While we are aware of the change in pastor at St. Mary's in 2004, we note with great disappointment that, no effort has been made to meet, plan, collaborate or develop either a cluster ministry plan or a plan within the City of Burlington. Attempts by Archdiocesan staff to contact and encourage this effort have not been acknowledged.

We are aware of projected land, road and rail development in your area. We encourage the Vicar for Planning to meet with your district and with a representative(s) of SWRPAC to learn what development is planned in District 3 and how it will affect parish life in the next 10-20 years.

We continue to offer the assistance of your new parish consultant, Catherine O'Neill, and other archdiocesan staff as we strongly encourage you to meet and discuss future collaborative plans.



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### District 3 - Walworth County, Racine & Kenosha Counties west of I-94

To District 3 Cluster Parishes

- St. Thomas, Waterford
- St. Clare, Wind Lake

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*Philippians 1: 2-7*

Congratulations to St. Clare Parish on the completion and dedication of your new church building!

We encourage St. Thomas Parish to move forward on planning and fund-raising for your new church building.

We commend both of you for your efforts to support and strengthen Hispanic Ministry within the District.

We understand the challenges you face with projected population growth, financial concerns and pastoral needs. We encourage the Vicar for Planning to meet with your district and with a representative(s) of SWRPAC to learn where land, road and rail development is planned in District 3 and how it will affect parish life in the next 10-20 years.

We continue to offer the assistance of your new parish consultant, Catherine O'Neill, and other archdiocesan personnel as you plan for the future of your parishes and mission of the church in District 3.





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### District 3 - Walworth County, Racine & Kenosha Counties west of I-94

To District 3 Cluster Parishes

- St. John the Evangelist, Twin Lakes
- St. Scholastica, Bristol
- St. Alphonsus, New Munster
- Holy Name, Wilmot

**G***race to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right that I should think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, you who are all partners with me in grace,*

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We commend all four parish communities for gracefully working together as you share pastors: St. Scholastica and Holy Name parishes, and St. Alphonsus and St. John the Evangelist parishes. We express our gratitude to your pastors as they make this transition with you.

Congratulations to Holy Name parishioners on the beautiful renovation of your worship space. We commend St. Scholastica parish for implementing your building project to better provide for the religious instruction and handicapped accessibility of all your members.

We commend both of you for your efforts to support and strengthen Hispanic Ministry within the District.

We encourage your parishes to continue meeting as a cluster and with the whole district to plan for the future. We understand the challenges you face with projected population growth, financial concerns and pastoral needs. We encourage the Vicar for Planning to meet with your district and with a representative(s) of SWRPAC to learn where land, road and rail development is planned in District 3 and how it will affect parish life in the next 10-20 years.

We continue to offer the assistance of your new parish consultant, Catherine O'Neill, and other archdiocesan personnel as you plan for the future of your parishes and mission of the church in District 3.