



Autumn 2005
District 5 - Western Waukesha County

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

- ... working together to discern how clustering would best help meet the needs of your parishioners, maintaining strong parishes and provide access to the Eucharist in light of the priest shortage. We affirm this decision and the decision made by St. Leonard and St. Joseph to stay in District 5.
- ... continuing to make Sunday Eucharist central, supporting it with strong music and liturgical ministries.
- ... developing strong child through adult Christian formation opportunities. We appreciate St. Anthony's leadership in this area and its willingness to share its model of whole family formation.
- ... developing a *Culture of Vocations* which encourages men and women to commit to full time ministry in the church.
- ... building or preparing to build worship spaces to meet present and future needs in an area of rapid growth. We note that parishes engaged in such efforts have continued to be truly present to the district during this time and applaud your efforts to do this. We note with joy the lay leadership at St. Bruno during its building project and know this was due in large part to their empowerment by the pastor. The steady and thorough work of engaging in a capital campaigns at St. Jerome and St. Paul is to be commended. We appreciate the collaborative work being done at St. Theresa and St. James to discern the best building option(s) for their future.
- ... excellent schools. We share the joy of the St. Jerome community in dedicating a state of the art school. We applaud new and continued efforts to discover how parishes can join is keeping high quality schools affordable.

We invite the District to work with Fr. Stiefvater as he begins the process of furthering the development of Hispanic ministry in Waukesha County. Some parishes will give service directly and others may support this work monetarily. But all, we trust, will prepare the parishes for a more diverse church.



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We heard the frustration of planning for fewer priests knowing that the Archbishop may invite priests from other countries to serve in the Archdiocese.

We acknowledge, too, your concern for the development of a theology of Eucharist that will serve parishioners well in light of the possibility of Sundays without the fullness of Eucharist. We encourage you to engage at the District level in discussion regarding these concerns. You might consider inviting District 4 to join you.

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 2004as 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)
- 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)



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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/companionship, and genuine and repeated invitations to consider a vocation to ordained priesthood and diaconate, and to religious life. (On-going)

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 **8 seminarians** or novices.

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



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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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To District 5 Cluster A Parishes

- St. Bruno, Dousman
- St. Jerome, Oconomowoc
- St. Joan of Arc, Delafield/Nashota
- St. Paul, Genesee Depot

Grace 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

- ... St. Bruno's congregation for the successful completion and dedication of your beautiful new worship space.
- ... St. Jerome's parish for the completion and blessing of your state-of-the-art school and continued work toward building your new worship space.
- ... St. Paul's community working to develop the community while engaging in a capitol campaign
- ... St. Joan of Arc parish for your emphasis on liturgical engagement and renewed school support

We trust you will share your building/capital campaign successes with area parishes who call on you for information as they plan to build.

We hear and understand that it is a challenge to determine how your large and growing communities can engage in meaningful collaborative partnerships especially among the schools and youth ministry and adult formation.

We are confident that you will continue your evangelization efforts and trust that you will work well with Fr. Bob Stiefvater and all the parishes of District 4 and 5 to develop and grow Hispanic ministry in Waukesha County.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff in the good work you do.



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To District 5 Cluster B Parishes

- St. Anthony, Pewaukee
- Queen of Apostles, Pewaukee
- St. Charles, Hartland

Grace 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 the fine work being done at St. Anthony in the area of Christian Formation. We appreciate your willingness to share your success with other parishes in the cluster and the Archdiocese.

We appreciate the work done by the staff at St. Charles to build community among staff and between staff and parishioners.

We recognize, too, the efforts made by Queen of Apostles to explore new options for the school building and parking issues.

We are disappointed that more collaboration is not in evidence in the cluster. We strongly urge you to gather staffs and councils to discover ways you can share your talents and support one another especially in evangelization and vocation development efforts.

We trust that you will work well with Fr. Bob Stiefvater and the parishes of District 4 and 5 to develop and grow Hispanic ministry in Waukesha County.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff in the good work you do.



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To the District 5 Cluster C1 Parishes

- St. Clare, North Lake
- St. John, Monches

Grace 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 thoroughly prepare your parishes for merger. Too, your consideration of building is appreciated. We encourage you continue to engage the parishioners, as you have, in this **two** step process. We applaud your concentration on building community and strengthening your committee structure as you move courageously toward the future.

We hear and understand the challenges you face during this time and so recommend that you put any consideration of collaboration with St. Catherine on hold for the foreseeable future. However, we encourage you to keep district, especially neighboring parishes, apprised of your work.

We trust that you will work well with Fr. Bob Stiefvater and the parishes of District 4 and 5 to develop and grow Hispanic ministry in Waukesha County.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff as you enhance your stewardship and evangelization efforts.



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To the District 5 Cluster C2 Parish
➤ St. Catherine, Mapleton

Note: Cluster C1 is St. Clare, North Lake and St. John, Monches

Grace 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 acknowledge your efforts to welcome and involved new members into your community.

Although you pride yourself on lay involvement, we are concerned with your tendency to isolate yourself from neighboring parishes and the district. The Archbishop's purpose in promulgating the strategic plan was to insure that parishes build solid collaborative partnerships to ensure that the best possible ministry is provided to all the people of God. Secondly, since we project the foreseeable future as one where parishes will share a pastor, past experience teaches us that this is accomplished more smoothly between "friends" than "strangers." It is imperative that you integrate your parish more fully into district and archdiocesan activities and educate your parishioners on the value of collaboration

We note that your strategic plan maintains the status quo, and therefore challenge you to prepare your parishioners for sharing a new pastor in the future. We request that you share your plans with the other parishes in the district.

For the next few years, St. Clare and St. John will be concentrating on merging and possibly building. In light of this, explore collaboration with other parishes in the district. By the Spring of '06, please inform us of your success with this.

We trust that you will work well with Fr. Bob Stiefvater and the parishes of District 4 and 5 to develop and grow Hispanic ministry in Waukesha County.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff.



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To the District 5 Cluster D Parishes

- St. Joseph, Big Bend
- St. Leonard, Muskego

Grace 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 exploring the option of changing districts and support your decision to stay in District 5.

We note that you have been preparing to strengthen collaboration and appreciate those efforts. We appreciate the work done at your parishes to develop strong staffs.

With a pastoral change, we are confident that you will enjoy closer collaborative ties after Fr. Bill Kohler is settled into St. Leonard.

We trust that you will work well with Fr. Bob Stiefvater and the parishes of District 4 and 5 to develop and grow Hispanic ministry in Waukesha County.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff.



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To the District 5 Cluster E Parishes

- St. Theresa, Eagle
- St. James, Mukwanago

Grace 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 working together and individually to prepare your parishioners for the day when your parishes will be served by 1 priest. While you develop a strategic plan it is evident that you continue to work to build strong ministries while you engaged in conversations about building. We applaud your doing this and further commend the pastors for empowering strong lay leadership.

We hear and understand the challenges you face in deciding the best way to proceed with building plans. How can archdiocesan personnel, the Vicar for Planning or Building Commission be of help?

We trust that you will work well with Fr. Bob Stiefvater and the parishes of District 4 and 5 to develop and grow Hispanic ministry in Waukesha county.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff as you implement strategic plans and work toward building your futures.