



Autumn 2005

District 8 - Fond du Lac 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 through....

- ... Faithfully tending to your parishes' needs and your partnerships in order to enter into even more extensive district-wide planning and collaboration in the future
- ... Examining and adapting Mass schedules within clusters to best serve the needs of the faithful in District 8
- ... Supporting a culture of vocations throughout Fond du Lac County

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)
- 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.



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- 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)

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 7 seminarians or novices.



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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 8 - Fond du Lac County

To District 8 Cluster Parishes

- St. Martin, Ashford
- St. Killian, St. Killian
- St. Matthew, Campbellsport

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 support your parish school and St. Mary's Springs High School. We appreciate the challenges you and many parishes face in providing quality, affordable Catholic elementary school education at St. Matthew's. We also commend you for entering into discussion with other parishes regarding school matters.

We urge you to enter into dialogue with St. Mary, Lomira and St. Theresa, Theresa and/or Shepherd of the Hills, Eden regarding the possibility of clustering with them in the future. We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff as you explore areas of further collaboration with other Catholic parishes and schools in the area.



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District 8 - Fond du Lac County

To District 8 Parish

- To Shepherd of the Hills, Eden, Armstrong and Dotyville

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 build and complete your beautiful new church and parish center. The spirit of welcoming during your dedication was evident to all who attended. The pride of your parish was further evident and will serve as a good source of strength for you.

We further commend you for your support of your parish school and St. Mary's Springs high school. We appreciate the challenges you and many parishes face in providing quality, affordable Catholic elementary school education at Shepherd of the Hills.

We hear and understand the challenges you face with the resignation of Fr. Kevin Wester and the grief and anger that is still present in your parish community that surrounds the closing and tearing down of your former church buildings. We are confident that you will seek the guidance of Fr. Charlie Wester as you continue to solidify your parish community.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan personnel as you look toward further collaboration with other Catholic parishes and schools in the area. In particular we urge you to consider meeting with St. Matthew, Campbellsport, St. Kilian and St. Martin, Ashford to discuss areas for possible collaborative partnership.



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To District 8 Cluster Parishes

- Holy Cross, Mt. Calvary
- St. Cloud, St. Cloud
- St. Joseph, St. Joe

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 bring together your councils into one and for your willingness to engage your parish consultant for training and direction in an upcoming retreat. We are confident that you will continue to explore opportunities to form the council especially in the areas of stewardship and evangelization.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff as you think about the possibility of doing strategic planning for your three parishes. Please consider including in this planning Johnsburg and Marytown, as well.

We hear and understand the challenges you face primarily with your consolidated school in the areas of finance and enrollment. We appreciate the challenges you and many parishes face in providing quality, affordable Catholic elementary school education.



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To District 8 Cluster Parishes

- Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, North Fond du Lac
- Our Risen Savior, Eldorado

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 continued efforts to support FACES and St. Mary's Springs.

We are confident that you will continue to collaborate with Holy Family, Fond du Lac where feasible.

We are disappointed that you have not yet done a study regarding expanding your current buildings in North Fond du Lac or building a new facility. We encourage you to take the opportunity to do this as soon as possible.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff as you explore the opportunity to do strategic planning for your two parishes.



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To District 8 Parish

➤ Holy Family, Fond du Lac

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 continue the fundraising campaign for your new church and parish center and congratulate you on your great success thus far!

We hear and understand the challenges you face in closing and selling remaining parish buildings.

We further understand the challenges you face with regard to the recent difficulties that FACES has been experiencing and the challenge of continuing to support both FACES and St. Mary's Springs High School, both in the areas of mission and finance. We commend you for "troubleshooting" with regard to FACES and the positive direction that situation has recently taken.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff as you study of the future of Catholic education in the Fond du Lac Area with the creation of a task force. Further, we will continue to offer our assistance as you delve more deeply into the areas of evangelization and stewardship.

We are confident that you will keep in mind the need to prepare parishioners and staff for fewer priests in the future and encourage new candidates to the priestly, diaconate and lay ministry formation programs from within your parish.



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To District 8 Parish

- Sons of Zebedee, Byron and Oakfield

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 outstanding efforts to tend and improve your church and parish facilities and for the spirit of welcome and cooperation you have shown your new pastor!

We hear and understand the challenges you face trying to decide which cluster to begin a conversation on collaboration. We are confident that you will come to some decision regarding further collaboration this year and enter into dialogue with those parishes to plan for your future, whether it be Lomira-Theresa or Fond du Lac.

We also thank you and urge you to continue to recruit students for Catholic schools in the area from your parish and continue your support of St. Mary's Springs High School.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff as you commit to furthering the spiritual formation of your council, preferably in the form of a council day or evening of reflection.



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District 8 - Fond du Lac County

To District 8 Cluster Parishes

- St. John the Baptist, Johnsburg
- St. Mary, Marytown

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 support your consolidated parish school and St. Mary's Springs High School. We hear and understand the challenges you face with your school in the areas of enrollment and finance.

We ask you, once again, to dialogue with the Mt. Calvary, St. Joe and St. Cloud parishes as to the best use of your resources, particularly with regard to your school.

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff as you explore the opportunity to do some long range planning with regard to your school and parishes. Please consider that part of this planning should include the parishes in Mt. Calvary, St. Joe and St. Cloud, as well.



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To District 8 Cluster Parishes

- St. Mary, Springvale
- St. Brendan, Brandon
- St. Joseph, Waupun

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 the welcome to your new pastor, Fr. Julio.

We hear and acknowledge the challenges you face as three parishes being pastored by one priest. We understand that St. Mary's and St. Brendan's are fearful of being "swallowed up" by St. Joseph and losing their individual identities. Yet as the future unfolds, more parishes will be sharing priests throughout the archdiocese.

We offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff as we urge you to enter into a strategic planning process to determine the best future for the church and our mission in your area. Include in your planning discussion of the benefits and disadvantages of remaining in District 8-Fond du Lac County or realigning your parishes with District 7-Dodge County.



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To District 8 Parish

- St. Catherine of Siena, Ripon

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 successfully merge your parishes and wish you well as you celebrate with Archbishop Dolan in September.

We hear and understand the challenges you face in the area of stewardship and evangelization. We are confident that your renewed spirit of unity will draw new members to your parish!

We continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff as you explore the opportunity of doing long range planning for your new parish.