



Autumn 2005

DISTRICT 14 - City of Milwaukee, Near South Side

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....

... Your dedication to serving people of all cultures

... Your practice of and celebrations of our faith, privately, communally and publically

... Your commitment to develop a comprehensive district-wide pastoral plan

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.



Autumn 2005

DISTRICT 14 - City of Milwaukee, Near South Side

- 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 2 seminarians or novices.

5. Emphasize our Mission of Justice and Charity

- Preach about and teach the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (On-going)



Autumn 2005

DISTRICT 14 - City of Milwaukee, Near South Side

- 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.



Autumn 2005

DISTRICT 14 - City of Milwaukee, Near South Side

To the faithful of the Parishes in District 14

- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- St. Patrick
- St. Stanislaus
- St. Anthony
- St. Hyacinth
- St. Adalbert
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Prince of Peace/Principe de Paz
- St. Rafael
- Congregation of the Great Spirit
- St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Ss. Cyril & Methodius
- St. Mary Magdalene
- Basilica of St. Josaphat

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 priests, parish leaders and especially the planning team leading the pastoral planning process for your district for the great efforts and courage to teach and facilitate a 5 step methodology for this process. Father Bob Stiefvater, Vicar for Hispanic Ministry and Roberto Cortés your parish consultant, report that it has been an energizing and inspiring process!

The methodology used in this process with district sessions for orientations, trainings and theological reflections with parish representatives are unique to your district. We look forward to seeing the written documentation of your process and pastoral plan since they may be useful resources to serve people in other areas of the archdiocese.

The parishes in your district serve what is probably the most diverse population in our archdiocese. We are aware there will be special challenges to address as you design and implement your pastoral plan for and with all the cultural groups that comprise the near south side.

It is also our understanding that African Americans are now a very visible presence on the near south side. As you prepare continue to develop the plan we encourage you to open your hearts to this community in your efforts of outreach



Autumn 2005

DISTRICT 14 - City of Milwaukee, Near South Side

and evangelization since no particular parish in your district identifies itself as serving this community as it is the case with other cultural groups.

Looking at the progress of your planning process and, since the plan calls every parish to work in new and more creative ways, we pose the following:

- What does each individual parish need to let go of?
- Is this plan going to address the way parishes are structured, organized and staffed in your district?
- Is it time to look at a district pastoral council instead of individual councils for each parish?

As you know there are priests in your district that are new not only to the city, but to the archdiocese, please do every thing to make them feel welcome and familiarize them with your collaboration efforts and the pastoral planning.

Father Bob Stiefvater will continue to serve you in the same capacity and we will continue to offer the assistance of your parish consultant and other archdiocesan staff as needed.