

PASTORAL PLANNING TASK FORCE NEWS CEDAR RAPIDS DEANERY

JESUS - HIS MISSION - OUR MISSION

We are Disciples of Jesus, commissioned by our Baptism to share and carry out his mission. We have all been called to our family altar table to celebrate the Eucharist as the “Source and Summit” of our community life. What is our vision for the Mission of Jesus in the Cedar Rapids Deanery? How do we respond to God’s love for us? What does the Catholic Church need to do to meet the needs of the people of the area? These questions related to the mission of Jesus are being considered by the Cedar Rapids Deanery Pastoral Planning Task Force (Task Force).



LEADERSHIP RECONFIGURATION

The Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of Dubuque has been undergoing a reconfiguration of leadership for the last 20 years. There are fewer priests, more Deacons, fewer religious, and more lay people. Because of this, many of the Deaneries in the Archdiocese, under the shepherding of our Archbishop, have made significant changes in how their Parishes operate. The Cedar Rapids Deanery currently consists of 23 Parishes that are served by 18 Priests. The Deanery anticipates that by July 1, 2010, there will be 16-17 priests available, and that by July 1, 2015, there will be 13-15 priests available to serve. Because of the other pastoral responsibilities that ordination entails, this will mean fewer masses and the need to share priests and parish personnel within the Deanery. Assisting the Archbishop in planning the pastoral future of the Deanery in this climate of change is the work of the Task Force. With proper planning, the worship and other needs of Catholics in the Cedar Rapids Deanery will continue to be met.

REPORT FOCUS

- Liturgy**
- Faith Formation**
- Stewardship**
- Social Justice**
- Parish Life**
- Finance**

CEDAR RAPIDS DEANERY PASTORAL PLANNING TASK FORCE

The Task Force is composed of two Parish representatives from each of the 23 Parishes in the Deanery and five Deanery Representatives. The Deanery Representatives include the Dean, Father John Gossman; two Representatives of the Pastors; and two Representatives of the Deacons. Serving as resources to the Committee are Co-Chairs Joe Schmall and Matt Brandes; Archdiocesan Planner, Dan Rohner; and Msgr. Russell M. Bleich, Regional Vicar for the Archbishop.

The Task Force has been charged with developing a five year pastoral plan with alternative recommendations (Report) for the Parishes of the Deanery. The Report will be organized around the six major committees that each Parish will be forming in the near future. These committees will address vital areas of Catholic life in our Parishes. These areas are Liturgy, Faith Formation, Stewardship, Social Justice, Parish Life and Finance. This change in parish governance structure is a part of Parish Council reorganization that is being implemented across the Archdiocese.

TASK FORCE (Con't from pg.1)

The Task Force began meeting in August, 2009. The Task Force meets twice monthly. In the time between meetings, Task Force representatives are working with their Parishes and Parish Councils to review necessary elements of the Pastoral Plan and to receive and give input. The Task Force is scheduled to complete its work and forward it's Report to the Archbishop by February, 2010. Included in the Report will be plans for how priests, other personnel, and facilities may be shared within our Deanery to meet future needs. As the leader of the Archdiocese, the Archbishop will be responsible for final pastoral planning decisions concerning the people and parishes of the Cedar Rapids Deanery.



CEDAR RAPIDS DEANERY:

PARISHES LINKAGES (L) CLUSTERS

Cedar Rapids:

All Saints
St. Jude
St. Ludmilla
St. Matthew
St. Patrick
St. Pius X

Immaculate Conception (L)
St. Wenceslaus (L)

John XXII (L)
Fairfax: St. Patrick (L)

Hiawatha: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Marion: St. Joseph

Mt. Vernon: St. John the Baptist (L)
Springville: St. Isidore (L)

Queen of Saints Cluster:

Van Horne: Immaculate
Conception

Blairstown: St. John

Newhall: St. Paul

Norway: St. Michael

Watkins: St. Patrick

Anamosa: St. Patrick (L)

North Linn Cluster: (L)

Central City: St. Stephen

Coggon: St. John the
Evangelist

Prairieburg: St. Joseph