

# FLOURISHING *families*

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR A FLOURISHING FUTURE

## DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY

*“The parish is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach.”*

-POPE FRANCIS, THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL



## Deanery 1 Discussion Group

**Session #2: April 15, 2023**

## Blessed Sacrament Parish

Rapid City, South Dakota

## ***Session Summary Report***

***Dean: Rev. Kerry Prendiville***

***Prepared & Compiled By:***

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## **Deanery 1**

### **Second Session Agenda**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 8:30 am  | Mass  |
| <br>     |   |
| 9:15 am  | Opening Prayer – Fr. Kerry Prendiville                                  |
| <br>     |   |
| 9:20 am  | Topics to be discussed at this session                                  |
| <br>     |   |
| 9:25 am  | Topic 1: Review of the Deanery 1 SWOT analysis                          |
| <br>     |   |
| 9:45 am  | Topic 2: Pros and cons of the Pastors Plan for Deanery 1                |
| <br>     |   |
| 10:25 am | Topic 3: Development of possible organizational options for each parish |
| <br>     |   |
| 11:10 am | Topic 4: Sharing of some organizational recommendations (options)       |
| <br>     |   |
| 11:20 am | Wrap-up and Closing Prayer  |
| <br>     |   |
| 11:30 am | Lunch served by Blessed Sacrament Altar Society                         |

## Topic 1: Deanery #1 SWOT Analysis

*This Deanery SWOT analysis reflects what the majority of the parishes observe in the region (Deanery #1). While many parishes may experience a particular strength, weakness, threat, and opportunity an individual parish might have the opposite or different experience. Dr. Usera reported these findings to the group participants in the second group meeting.*

### Strengths

- There is a strong Catholic presence within the region. (e.g., It is the largest religious affiliation in Rapid City Metro Area)
- Deanery with highest number of active priests. [number = 13 (52.0%)]
- Deanery has a high population growth within the diocese.
- Has Catholic schools (elementary, middle, and high school)
- Has a strong VSI certified catechists' presence
  - Deanery 1 = 121 (64.7% of the diocese total)
- Has a large Native American population
- Many of the parishes are experiencing growing youth programs.

### Weakness

- There are many members who do not have a good understanding of the Catholic Church's teachings, traditions, and practices.
- Many parishes have a declining youth program attendance.
- The percentage of Catholics attending Mass is declining.
- In many parishes there is a decline of male leadership and volunteers
- There is evidence of an increase of self-serving attitudes. There is a large "me" first attitude.
- There is a lack of understanding and meaning of the Eucharist, especially transubstantiation.

## Possible Opportunities

- There is an opportunity to obtain new membership due to the increasing population trends.
- The Eucharist Revival emphasis is an opportunity to promote and teach about the Eucharist.
- The Newman Center members are an asset for local parishes to reach out to the youth.
- There is an opportunity to take advantage of the availability of technology to promote connectivity and participation in parish activities, events, and faith formation.
- Promoting the availability of an affordable Catholic School education.
- Reaching out to the growing Hispanic and Native American populations within the deanery.
- Providing more support and programming for the youth, especially at the high school and college levels.
- There is an opportunity to help families and the community create spiritual environments for the promotion of the Catholic faith.

## Possible Threats

- Scheduling of sports and other recreational activities conflicts with parish schedules for liturgy and faith formation.
- Some school schedules (four-day school week) are impacting faith formation programs.
- Competition for church membership by other congregations promoting “easier” faith engagement practices.
- Anger against the Catholic Church for past happenings or treatment of members
- Many families and individuals are enduring economic hardships – two jobs to support a family, low wages, poor housing, etc.

## Topic 2: Review of Pastors' Plan – Pro & Con

The group participants reviewed the pastors' plan for the reorganization of Deanery #1 parishes. The discussion group provided some pros and cons for each of the options presented. The following draft options reflected the final deliberations of the presbyteral council and were designed to be presented to the discussion groups for possible consideration for adoption.

- 1) Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral, Blessed Sacrament parish and Our Lady of the Black Hills parish all eliminate one Sunday Mass.
  - a. Pro
    - i. It will help to fill the pews.
    - ii. An opportunity for a greater faith experience because of more members coming together.
    - iii. Makes available the priest to assist at other parishes if needed.
  - b. Con
    - i. Mass scheduling may not appeal to all the parish members.
    - ii. May cause some members to go to another church for times that are appealing to them.
- 2) OLBH takes responsibility for St. John in New Underwood.
  - a. Pro
    - i. The parish draws many members from the surrounding area, including Deanery #3
    - ii. Masses will still be available at the parish.
  - b. Con
    - i. St. John has a very good relationship with St. Theresa – the parish would have to reestablish a new relationship with OLBH
    - ii. Different scheduling for masses and other liturgical needs will have to be made, e.g., funerals and Penance Service.
- 3) St. John Parish Custer and St. Rose of Lima Hill city becomes one family of parishes. Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Keystone is reduced to a chapel without regular Sunday Masses.
  - a. Pro
    - i. There is still a Spanish mass available at St. Rose
    - ii. Less stress for the pastor

- iii. Penance services will be available at each church – different day and times – more opportunities.
  - b. Con
    - i. With no mass at Our Lady of Mount Caramel where will the summer attendants (visitors) be able to attend mass?
    - ii. More Spanish speaking families in Rapid City than in the Hill City area – will Rapid City Spanish speakers go to St. Rose for mass?
- 4) The Spanish Mass at Blessed Sacrament ceases. Spanish Mass at St. Rose of Lima continues to be provided by the pastor of that parish.
  - a. Pro
    - i. Blessed Sacrament does not have to recruit a Spanish speaking priest to offer mass.
  - b. Con
    - i. More Spanish speaking families in Rapid City than in the Hill City area – will Rapid City Spanish speakers go to St. Rose for mass?
    - ii. It is possible to create a bilingual mass offering. Who is available to put this into reality?
- 5) St. Anthony Parish in Hot Springs and St. James Parish in Edgemont enter a parish merger become one parish with two churches.
  - a. Pro
    - i. One parish council and one finance committee
    - ii. More effective use of pastor's time and availability
  - b. Con
    - i. Two different communities – will the members being willing to merge together.
- 6) Saint Michael the Archangel parish in Hermosa joins one family of parishes with churches in Hot Springs and Edgemont.
  - a. Pro
    - i. Proximity of the churches improves the availability of a pastor for St. Michael
    - ii. St. Michael brings younger membership to the family of parishes.
    - iii. More opportunities to provide a variety of liturgical celebrations and gatherings.
  - b. Con
    - i. Members may find it difficult to be a part of Hot Springs

- 7) The Jesuits move St Isaac Jogues Parish to St. Therese Parish. St Isaac Jogues sells its property, purchases the building and grounds of St. Therese. St. Therese Parish moves to Rapid Valley and builds a new church Rectory and Hall.
- a. Pro
    - i. Provides an opportunity to build a church in the Rapid Valley and Box Elder area.
    - ii. Provides a diverse membership for the new parish.
    - iii. Box Elder area will have a full-time pastor in the area.
  - b. Con
    - i. Needs the approval the Midwest Society of Jesus Province
    - ii. There are many incremental steps on both the Jesuit and Diocesan level before any action can take place – will require time.
    - iii. St. Theresa and St. Isaac Jogues Parish Council sand memberships must accept and approve the changes.
- 8) Vocations, Newman, and School Chaplaincy remain the responsibility of one priest in residence at the Newman Center.
- a. No changes or comments noted.
- 9) A question raised by the presbyteral council: can Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral operate without aid of an associate pastor?
- a. This was not answered or discussed at this time.

## **Topic 3: Development of Options for Individual Parishes – Group Participants Input**

In this step the participants were asked to develop one or more options for consideration in planning for the role of individual parishes in the next 5 to 10 years. The options listed below are suggestions that the decision makers (e.g., Bishop, Diocesan Pastoral Council, etc.) should take into consideration. It is important to note that at this time, these are draft options and that they can change after future discussions. The participants were asked to share these options with their respective parishioners and obtain some support or ideas for the group's consideration in the next meetings.

### **1) St. Therese of the Little Flower – Rapid City**

- a. Option #1
  - i. St. Isaac Jogues sells their land and buys the land for new church in Box Elder
  - ii. St. Therese maintains their facilities, but merges with St. Jogues and helping to enculturate the members until the new church is built in Box Elder.
  - iii. Leave St. John the Evangelist a missionary church of St. Therese.
- b. Option #2
  - i. Keep all three parishes as they are.
  - ii. Monitor memberships to determine if there is growth in the parishes. Invited St. Margaret at Lakeside to merge with St. John in New Underwood.

### **2) St. John the Evangelist – New Underwood**

- a. Option #1
  - i. Remain as a mission parish with St. Therese providing a pastor and serving as an evangelization partner to cover rural eastern Meade and Pennington Counties, Box Elder, and rural New Underwood.
  - ii. Invite St. Margaret of Lakeside to merge with St. John with St. Margaret become a chapel.
- b. Option #2
  - i. Move St. Therese pastoral team to Box Elder keeping Option #1 in place.



### **3) Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Keystone**

- a. Option #1
  - i. St. John the Baptist, St. Rose of Lima, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel become one family of parishes.
  - ii. Each parish will still have its individual Pastoral Council and Finance Committee.
  - iii. Additional priest from Rapid City could assist with seasonal needs at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- b. Option #2
  - i. None stated.

### **4) St. Rose of Lima – Hill City**

- a. Option #1
  - i. St. Rose and St. John the Baptist form as one family of parishes.
  - ii. Assign Our Lady of Mount Carmel as Spanish speaking parish for both Hill City (13 miles distance) and Rapid City (27 miles distance)
- b. Option #2
  - i. Assign two priests to reside in Custer.
  - ii. The parishes in Hermosa, Edgemont, Hot Springs, and Hill City become one family of parishes.
  - iii. The parish in Keystone would be designated as a chapel.

### **5) St. Anthony of Padua – Hot Springs**

- a. Option #1
  - i. Merge the Hot Springs, Edgemont, and Custer parishes into a single parish with one Pastoral Council and Finance Committee.
  - ii. St. John the Baptist should adjust its mass schedule to meet the summer seasonal demands.
- b. Option #2
  - i. St. Anthony and St. James should merge into a single parish with one Pastoral Council and Finance Committee.
  - ii. St. Michael Parish should not be considered in joining this new parish structure.
- c. Option #3
  - i. St. Anthony Parish in Hot Springs and St. James Parish in Edgemont enter a parish merger become one parish with two churches.

#### **6) St. John the Baptist – Custer**

- a. Option #1
  - i. No organizational plan suggested by the parish at this time.

#### **7) St. James – Edgemont**

- a. Option #1
  - i. St. James merge with St. Anthony forming one parish with one Pastoral Council and Finance Committee.
  - ii. The Finance Committee will oversee two accounts – one for each church.
  - iii. St. Michael (Hermosa) should not be merged with these two parishes.
- b. Option #2
  - i. St. James, St. Anthony, and St. John the Baptist merge into one parish.
  - ii. High school faith formation would work together, sharing of bible study groups, book clubs, etc.

#### **8) Our Lady of the Black Hills – Piedmont**

- a. Options #1
  - i. Reduce weekend masses by one mass: one mass on Saturday and one mass on Sunday.
- b. Option #2
  - i. OLBH keeps three weekend masses and does not serve St. John the Evangelist Parish
- c. Options 3
  - i. OLBH keeps three weekend masses and adds one mass at St. John the Evangelist Parish.
- d. Option #4
  - i. Reduce weekend masses by one mass: one mass on Saturday and one on Sunday.
  - ii. OLBH and St. John the Evangelist become one family of parishes.

### **9) St. Michael – Hermosa**

- a. Option #1
  - i. Remain a member of the family parishes with Blessed Sacrament Parish.
  - ii. St. Michael Parish already has established a relationship with Blessed Sacrament Parish and sees itself a member of the community.
- b. Option #2
  - i. There is no option #2 since the parish does not see itself as a member of the family parishes that includes Hot Springs and Edgemont.
  - ii. Becoming a member of this family will be nothing more than sharing a priest for mass and other liturgical services.
  - iii. Believe parishioners will vote to stay with Blessed Sacrament not Hot Springs.

### **10) Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Rapid City**

- a. Option #1
  - i. Eliminate one mass offering during the weekend.
  - ii. Work with other parishes in the city to provide youth programs that will bring the youth together. It will help alleviate pressures requiring more resources and energy for all the city parishes.
- b. Option #2
  - i. No second option was provided.

### **11) Blessed Sacrament – Rapid City**

- a. Option #1
  - i. Eliminate the Spanish mass offering during the weekend.
  - ii. Have more coordination between the Rapid City parishes so that all Catholic you can participate in activities in other parishes and show that we are one community.
- b. Option #2
  - i. Keep our connection with Spanish members in our parish.
  - ii. Provide the readings and gospel in Spanish with handouts for other languages.
  - iii. Celebrating the Out Lady Guadalupe mass in Spanish.

### **12) St. Isaac Jogues – Rapid City**

- a. Option #1
  - i. The Jesuits move St Isaac Jogues Parish to St. Therese Parish.
  - ii. St Isaac Jogues sells its property, purchases the building and grounds of St. Therese.
  - iii. St. Therese Parish moves to Rapid Valley and builds a new church Rectory and Hall.
- b. Option #2
  - i. Stay at the present location.
  - ii. Take down Mother Butler Center.
  - iii. Building a new church with appropriate spaces.
  - iv. The current church would be converted into offices and classrooms for faith formation classes – youth and adult.

### **13) Immaculate Conception – Rapid City**

- a. Option #1
  - i. No organizational plan was provided at this time.

### **14) Newman Center – Rapid City**

- a. Option #1
  - i. With an anticipated growth in enrollment at the SDSMT in the next few years plans should be made for a full-time pastor.
  - ii. More evangelization is required on campus and in Rapid City. This would require an increase in staffing.

### **15) Rapid City Catholic School System – Rapid City**

- a. Options #1
  - i. No organizational plan was provided at this time for religious or liturgical services with the Rapid City and area parishes.

## Topic 4: Sharing of Some Parish Options

In this step the participants were asked to share any options that were different from the Pastors Plan present in Topic 2. About four parishes report their different options or approaches to reorganizing their parish or family of parishes.

Three of the parishes – St. Rose of Lima, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Isaac Jogues – share different options which were not presented in the Pastors Plan. St. Michael reported on the importance of no change from their current relationship with Blessed Sacrament.

