

Notes from Cluster Meeting

August 9, 2005

Ernie Lebel—facilitator—hired by Diocese to meet with Clusters and get them set up.

Need to have our plan submitted to bishop by June 2006

- Pick model, make implementation plan, and defend it.
- Implementation must be complete by 2010.

Diocese wants this perceived as evangelization function rather than operations function.

In 2010 the projection is there will be 61 priests to serve the entire state.

- The role of the priests/pastors will be ordained work only.
- The role of lay people will be to do more than just the administrative work, but full ministries (call on Deacons and Pastoral Assistants to do more).

Cluster committee needs to decide what our “filter” will be for decision making—how will we know/measure how effective our plans will be. How will we know if plans will work.

The cluster will standardize how parish councils and finance councils are set up and operate. The models are administrative.

The model choices are based on Green Bay, Wisconsin models.

The effect of these models is that the parish is not focused on one priest.

A worship site is a building.

Civil law: all property belongs to the diocese—a corporation

Canon law: each parish owns itself.

The Bishop names the parish.

What we'll need to begin process: Data

- Financials, capacity, activities, history/mission, out reach
- The population of the area we serve is approx. 50,000. Approx. 11,000 Catholics.
- What are projects for future growth?
 - And, we serve more than just Catholics
 - Hospitals and nursing homes
 - Poor outreach (soup kitchens)
 - Education/schools
- Communication Plan—how we communicate what the cluster committee is doing and how we ask for input. Bulletins, website, etc.

For our cluster, we will base our model on two priests. What other staffing resources do we have? Deacons, PA's, nuns, brothers?

Model IV does not apply to us—we have only four parishes, within close proximity. Model II does not seem to apply---we have no ethnic or cultural differences between us, nor is there a large geographic difference, or much difference in whom we serve, or any large debt issue with one or more parishes.

Model I and Model III are our two likely choices—both call for administrative centralization.

Next steps:

- Pick a chairperson—he/she sets agenda and is the “go-to” person
- Pick a scribe—to take notes/minutes
- Pick a facilitator—assigned to the cluster
- Set a meeting schedule
- Get everyone's name/email address for inter-cluster communication

All our meetings are closed.

We will rotate locations—St. John's next.

Thursday is best day: Sept 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, and Dec 15

7 pm to 9 pm

Ernie will find us a facilitator (he is training them)

DB: Compile the email list and email it to the committee (include home addresses and parishes)