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Planning for Mission
**Parish renewal through
Divine Renovation**



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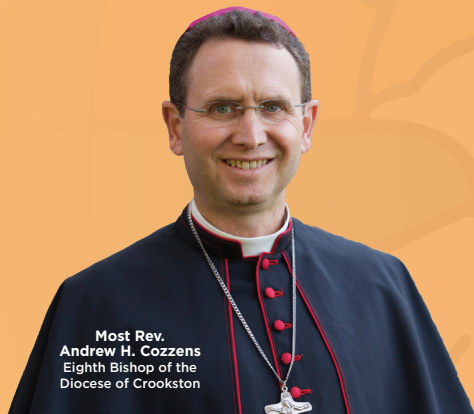
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Most Rev.
Andrew H. Cozzens
Eighth Bishop of the
Diocese of Crookston

Lend Us Your Heart



Planning for Mission

In 2024, after a year-long visioning process, I wrote *New Life Through the Tender Compassion of Our God*, a pastoral vision for our diocese. In it, I named the missionary moment through which we are living. We live in times that cry out for the proclamation of the Gospel – the Good News that only Jesus brings.

The signs are all around us. Violence and division grow in our culture. In the Diocese of Crookston, Sunday Mass attendance has dropped 30 percent in the past decade – from 14,600 to around 10,000. Most of those who left are young, and most who are baptized today will disaffiliate before adulthood. Many are never baptized at all. It used to be that if the parish offered Mass or religious education, people would come. Today, they won't – unless they are invited. We are living in missionary times.

This is why we have begun *Planning for Mission*. We want to fulfill the command Jesus gave us: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Mt 28:19-20) The Church exists in northwest Minnesota so that families, friends and neighbors can become disciples of Jesus. Our parishes are not meant to be clubhouses but mission centers – places where we are formed as missionaries and then sent to invite others to share the life of God.

Pope Francis describes this missionary shift clearly: “I dream of a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything ... so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 27).

To respond faithfully, will require change. We are currently set up for decline. We are not yet ready to shift our efforts to grow. If we want to become missionary, we must be willing to change our ways of doing things.

That is the purpose of *Planning for Mission*. The first step has already begun: Regional Leadership Summits to introduce parish leaders to the vision. Next comes deeper formation in the three principles guiding this process: 1) living as authentic disciples, 2) discerning God's call through prayer and 3) forming mission-centered parishes. This coming spring and summer, every parishioner will be invited to prayer, discernment, and feedback sessions. This will not be brainstorming alone but a spiritual process of listening to Jesus together, asking him to teach us how to do our mission.

Jesus reminds us: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit.” To fulfill his command, we must be rooted in him. Every meeting of ours will include time before the Blessed Sacrament. And, as Jesus says, the vine must be willing to be pruned – we will discern letting go of some things so that new life may grow.

Practically, this means asking questions like: How can parishes collaborate for vibrant youth ministry? How do we form small groups that invite people into deeper discipleship? How do we support our priests so they can evangelize without burning out? With fewer priests, when and where should we have Mass? How do we reach those who no longer come to church?

The early Church faced far greater obstacles than we do. Yet, empowered by the Holy Spirit from Pentecost, a small band of disciples converted the whole Roman Empire within three centuries. They did it not with programs but with witness: living intentional Christian lives, showing virtue and holiness, caring for the poor and even giving their lives as martyrs. The world was changed because they followed Christ wholeheartedly.

We are heirs of that same mission. Through the Sacraments, God's word and our lives of prayer, we share the very life of God. Death has been conquered. We have been given the power to overcome sin – and received hope of new life. Yet so many around us do not know the hope of Jesus or the treasures of his love in his Church.

Will you join us in *Planning for Mission*? Speak to your pastor. Take part in the parish sessions. Consider joining the intercessory prayer team at crookston.org/planningformissionprayerteam. Together, guided by the Holy Spirit, we can become the missionary Church Christ calls us to be. †

Join the Intercessory
Prayer Team



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Fr. Vincent Miller speaks to families at faith formation kickoff night.

The Diocese of Crookston is in an active state of parish planning, often referred to as “Planning for Mission.” The framework is provided by Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens’ pastoral letter *New Life: Through the Tender Compassion of Our God*. The goal of the ongoing process is to bring parishes from a maintenance to a mission mindset.

Assisted by Divine Renovation Ministry, Father Vincent Miller said he has felt that shift in his ministry. He is currently serving as pastor of St. Francis de Sales and St. Joseph in Moorhead and St. John, Georgetown. He is part of a group of pastors in the Diocese of Crookston who have taken part in Divine Renovation, a Catholic ministry dedicated to parish renewal.

“Part of being faithful is being tired,” said Father Miller. “In 2013, Deacon Mark Krejci found me in my office at the cathedral in Crookston and I was tired.” Father Miller said he was glad to see Deacon Krejci, but the message he delivered stung more than it helped.

“He simply said that we as a Church have to move from ‘maintenance to mission.’ It was the first time I heard that now

familiar phrase. I told him that I would be happy to move away from maintenance of the Church if someone was willing to take the 45 funerals a year that we have or put in a new heating plant,” said Father Miller. He said his attitude was not very missionary.

Ten years later, Father Miller received the book *Divine Renovation* by Father James Mallon from his spiritual director. The book, which shares a method the author used to renew his parish, has become a ministry that has reached thousands of parishes around the world, including in the Diocese of Crookston.

“At the heart of *Divine Renovation* for me is a recognition of how much has changed around the Church and how little our Church has changed its approach. We have continued with ‘heroic efforts’ — that’s why we are so tired — to do what worked for our generation,” said Father Miller. “We are not called to maintain programs that were meant for another time, but to strive to find ways to proclaim Jesus Christ in this time and that is hopeful.”

Father Mallon spoke to diocesan priests in the spring of 2024 at their annual convocation. The following 12 priests felt called to continue working with Divine Renovation: Father Nate Brunn, Father Augie Gothman, Father Miller, Father Joseph Richards, Father Matt Schmitz, Father Craig Vasek, Father John Wilebski, Father Joseph Kennady, Father Xavier Ilango, Father James Khembo, Father Joshy Mathew and Father Christon Muhero.



Matt Regitz

“We accompany priests and lay leaders who desire to see their parish come alive by providing them with the tools and coaching they need to lead their parish from maintenance to mission,” said Matt Regitz, Divine Renovation’s director of coaching. “We believe that in order to thrive, a parish must fully embrace its missionary identity. Instead of managing decline and maintaining

the methods and practices that were

best suited for a time in the Church’s life that has since passed, parishes must live a culture of mission and evangelization. Our mission is to inspire, connect and equip parishes to be missional, and through them bring people to Jesus.”

Using group, team and individual coaching, Divine Renovation works with pastors to share steps for parish renewal and help priests apply them in their unique parish.

“We come alongside priests and lay leaders and meet them where they are — in the middle of decline, frustration, and in their hope for more — so they can reclaim their missionary identity committed to making disciples,” Regitz said.

He said it is amazing to see how the vision of what Divine Renovation can help accomplish grows from one priest in one diocese to several priests and dozens of leaders in the same diocese.

“Bishop Andrew Cozzens is a mission-minded bishop, and is deeply committed to evangelization and seeing his parishes move beyond their parish walls,” Regitz said. “His team is united in this posture toward their priests and the parishes they shepherd.”

He said the balance he has seen in the Diocese of Crookston is not easy to achieve. He described it as a grass roots effort being supported from the top down.

“The tipping point is not when every pastor gets on board and is made to do what the diocese says, but when those first movers and passionate believers in parish renewal unite together in one diocese and start to lead the charge for the others,” Regitz said. “This is where the story moves beyond the *Divine Renovation* book, which got the ball rolling for parishes, to the stories we will tell about the priests in Crookston who are renewing their parishes to inspire others.”

“The end result is not just more people at Mass or balanced parish budgets, but people who love Jesus and want others to experience him in their lives, too,” Regitz said. “That message will be what fills pews and collection baskets ... because missionary disciples cannot keep any of this to themselves.”

DIVINE RENOVATION

Father Miller said the Divine Renovation process started with Zoom meetings and a series of introductory videos describing evangelization and vision empowered by culture and structure.

“Then the real grace of the ministry kicked in,” he said. “We were each given a coach. Ours is Angie Glendinning. I say ‘ours’ because the first step was to form a pastoral leadership team.”

The team provides support to the pastor. Father Miller said he turned to people he respected who have a deep relationship with the Lord and the Church. He said the team offers support in prayer and discernment.

“Led by the wonderful Divine Renovation coach, our pastoral leadership team provides a space to pray, dream, challenge, change, encounter and envision a new pastoral approach,” said Father Miller.

The Moorhead area pastoral leadership team includes Loren Haagenson, Kim Noel and Deacon Mark Krejci.

Haagenson said being part of the team has been a learning experience.

“We have had the opportunity to work with a Divine Renovation coach and explore a lot of different elements needed to adopt a mission parish mindset,” he said. “I especially enjoyed going through the visioning process. It is refreshing to see how we as a leadership team can support each other and



Families gather at St. Joseph's Church in Moorhead to kickoff faith formation for the year.



Deacon Mark Krejci, Fr. Vincent Miller and Kim Noel visit with Angie, their Divine Renovation Coach, over Zoom.

how the Holy Spirit continues to guide us in finding ways to support our parish and our pastor.”

“We started meeting one year ago,” said Noel. “As we know change can take time, but the early fruits I see is the benefit of providing our pastor with a focused team of support as the vision unfolds.”

She said it has been a gift to join with the others in supporting and helping to implement Father Miller and Bishop Cozzens’ vision for the parish out of a foundation of prayer.

Deacon Krejci has been familiar with Divine Renovation for many years through his diocesan role as director of the Office of Missionary Discipleship. Now he is seeing how Father Mallon’s model works at the parish level.

“Being on the leadership team has confirmed that you cannot rush the process,” said Deacon Krejci. “Becoming a mission centered parish is not brought about by simply starting a new program. It requires a shift in mindset brought forth by a steady movement of the parish towards everyone embracing their mission as a disciple of Jesus.”

Beginning July 1, changes were implemented in Moorhead area parishes. For the first time, the three parishes are sharing

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"In the Moorhead area we have begun the process of cooperation between three parishes, St. Joseph's, St. Francis de Sales and St. John the Baptist. Our communities are working toward a synergy that will multiply our ability to evangelize through combined efforts and shared resources," said Father Miller.

"It makes sense that these three parishes work together to provide for the spiritual needs of the Moorhead community," he added.

Father Miller is pastor of the three parishes, Father Michael Arey is associate pastor of St. Joseph's and director of the college ministry there and Father Raul Perez-Cobo is the associate pastor of all three parishes and the school.

In the letter announcing the partnership, Bishop Cozzens wrote, "It became apparent that the cooperation of the parishes of St. Joseph's, St. Francis and St. John's in Georgetown would provide the greatest resources and efficiencies to pastor God's people as thriving, sustainable and fruitful communities."



Speaker Bob Noel presents to families the faith formation plan for the year.

"Sometimes, not having a choice to do something is the best motivation to move forward," said Father Miller. "By that I am not being negative but recognizing reality. We used to call it 'when God closes a door, he opens a window.' We simply do not have the resources to function the way we always have."

He also said the surrounding culture has changed and parishes need to adapt.

"We are no longer a culture guided by Christian principles; we are in missionary territory. Change is not easy but we have been preparing," Father Miller said. "Bishop Cozzens has given us a road map with his pastoral letter, *New Life: Through the Tender Compassion of Our God*. The diocesan staff is facilitating diocesan planning and looking at how we can change the way we are ministering."

"The priests, deacons and our newly formed leadership team have been preparing to change from maintenance mode into a missionary parish. This pilot will help inform the process of the greater Diocese of Crookston as we undertake active parish planning," said Father Miller. †

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"I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation."
Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 27

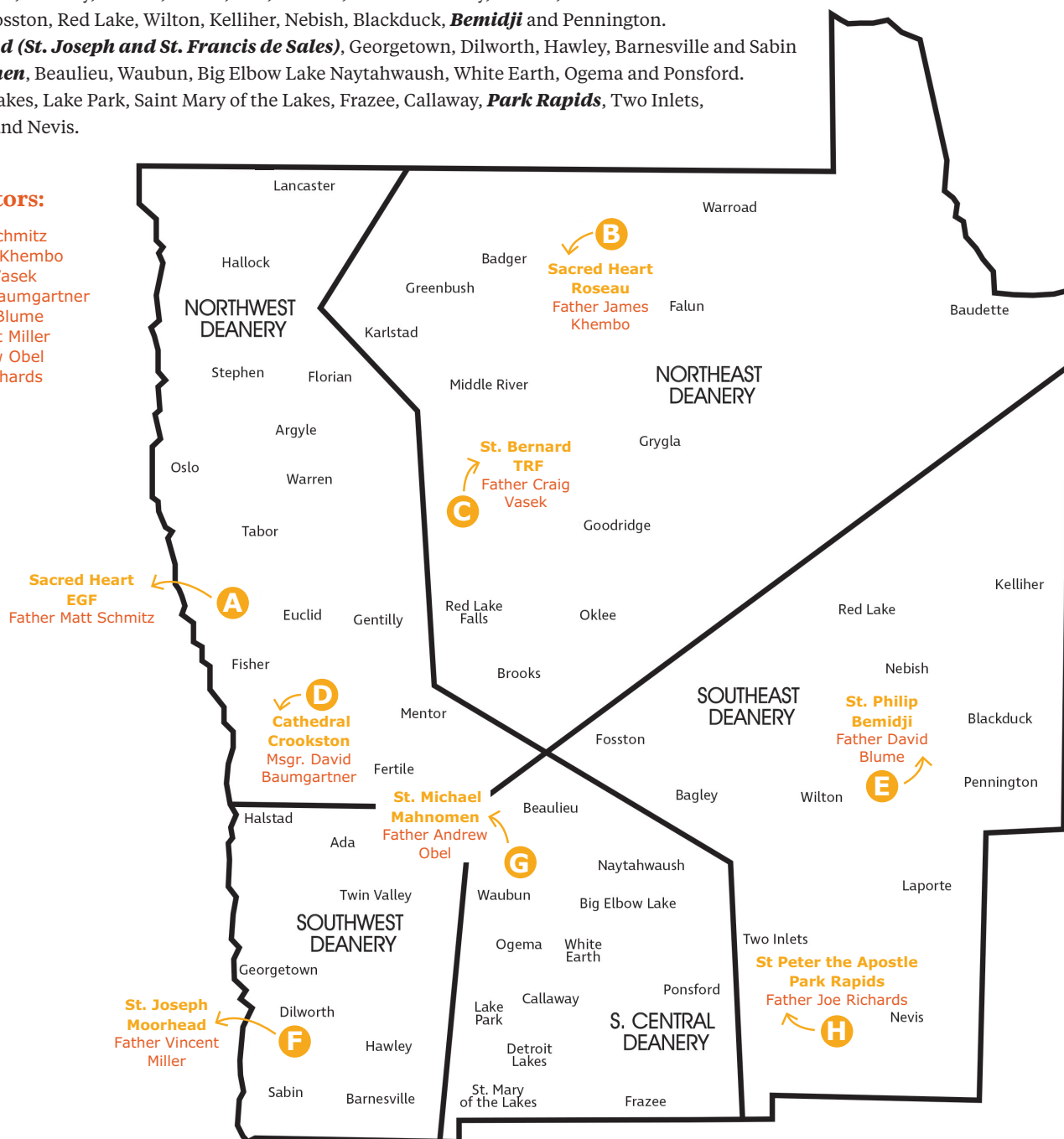
NEW LIFE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMITS

Regional breakdowns with locations in bold:

- A - East Grand Forks**, Fisher, Tabor, Stephen, Argyle, Florian, Hallock and Lancaster.
B - Greenbush, Middle River, Karlstad, **Roseau**, Badger, Falun, Baudette, and Warroad.
C - Thief River Falls, Red Lake Falls, Brooks, Oklee, Goodridge and Grygla.
D - Crookston, Gentilly, Mentor, Fertile, Ada, Halstad, and Twin Valley, Warren, Oslo and Euclid.
E - Bagley, Fosston, Red Lake, Wilton, Kelliher, Nebish, Blackduck, **Bemidji** and Pennington.
F - Moorhead (St. Joseph and St. Francis de Sales), Georgetown, Dilworth, Hawley, Barnesville and Sabin.
G - Mahanomen, Beaulieu, Waubun, Big Elbow Lake, Naytahwaush, White Earth, Ogema and Ponsford.
H - Detroit Lakes, Lake Park, Saint Mary of the Lakes, Frazee, Callaway, **Park Rapids**, Two Inlets, Laporte and Nevis.

Host Pastors:

Father Matt Schmitz
 Father James Khembo
 Father Craig Vasek
 Msgr. David Baumgartner
 Father David Blume
 Father Vincent Miller
 Father Andrew Obel
 Father Joe Richards



On the missionary path:

Diocese of Crookston begins Planning for Mission

BY JANELLE C. GERGEN | PHOTOS BY BAILEY BERNING

Planning for Mission timeline: September 2025 – August 2026

Over the next year, the Diocese of Crookston will engage parish leaders and parishioners in a process of prayerful discernment and planning to strengthen parish life and advance the mission of the Church. This work will unfold in two major phases: regional gatherings and leader formation, followed by parish-level planning.



Bishop Andrew Cozzens consecrates the Holy Eucharist at the opening Mass for the first New Life Regional Leadership Summit, held in Roseau on Sept. 27. Fathers James Khembo, Christon Muhero, and Tom Niehaus concelebrate.



Jim Remer, Director of Parish Planning, presents at the first New Life Regional Leadership Summit held in Roseau on Sept. 27.

September 2025 – March 2026: New Life Regional Leadership Summits

During this phase, priests and the parish leaders they invite will gather by region to reflect on the mission of the Church and the need for parish planning.

Goals of the regional summits:

- Share the evangelistic vision of parish planning with parish leaders.
- Facilitate an encounter with the Lord through prayer and small-group conversation.
- Begin discerning what changes may be needed to carry out the mission within available resources.

Key topics:

- Planning for Mission
- The Role of Discernment and the Holy Spirit
- Understanding Current Resources
- Implementing Planning at the Parish Level

Outcome:

Pastors and parish leaders will leave prepared to implement the parish-level planning process in their own parish or cluster.



Invitees to the first New Life Regional Leadership Summit held in Roseau on Sept. 27 participate in singing the opening hymn during Mass.



Invitees pray during Mass.



Small groups at the first New Life Regional Leadership Summit discuss fulfilling mission in light of parish data and trends.

November 2025 – August 2026: Parish-Level Planning

Following the New Life Regional Summits, pastors and parish leaders will guide their communities through a two-phase process of prayer and planning.

Phase 1: Leadership Formation for Prayer and Discernment

Parish leaders will be invited by their pastor and local parish planning team to three 90-minute sessions (or a single-day retreat) focused on prayer, discernment and mission.

Goals:

- Deepen discipleship through prayer and encounter.
- Learn to use prayer as the foundation for mission and decision-making.
- Understand the steps toward becoming a mission-centered parish.

Session topics:

- Authentic Discipleship (video featuring Bishop Cozzens)
- The Essential Role of Discernment and Prayer for Mission (video featuring Father Tom Niehaus)
- Steps to Becoming a Mission-Centered Parish (video featuring Deacon Mark Krejci)

Outcome:

Parish leaders will be equipped to lead Prayer, Discernment and Feedback Session(s) for parish communities.

Phase 2: Planning for Mission – Prayer, Discernment and Feedback Session(s)

With support from the Diocesan Planning Commission, parish leadership will invite everyone to participate in a two to three-hour session on parish-level Planning for Mission. Parishioners will hear the vision for mission from Bishop Cozzens (via video), be invited to encounter the Lord, to discern in prayer how the Lord is calling them to become a mission center, to understand their resources and to provide suggestions to the diocese for parish planning in their region.

Goals:

- Pastors and local planning teams facilitate for parishioners an encounter with the Lord in prayer.
- Teach discernment and listening to the Holy Spirit for mission guidance.
- Allow an opportunity for all parishioners to feel heard.
- Collect feedback for the Diocesan Planning Commission.

Outcome:

Local parish feedback will be compiled and submitted to the Diocesan Planning Commission, which will then make recommendations to the bishop regarding parish collaboration and adjustments needed to strengthen mission effectiveness across the diocese.

Diocesan Planning Commission: Guiding the future of parish life

The Diocese of Crookston has established a Diocesan Planning Commission to assist in renewing and strengthening parish life across the diocese. This commission plays an important role in supporting parishes and regions as they prepare for the future.

The work of the Planning Commission includes:

- Facilitating regional and parish meetings where Planning for Mission and collaboration will take place.
- Serving as a liaison between the diocese, priests and parishioners to ensure clear communication throughout the process.
- Providing local expertise to help parishes navigate planning discussions.
- Reviewing parish life data, demographic trends and other information in order to make informed recommendations to the Bishop of Crookston about parish structures and collaboration.

Members of the commission are also asked to:

- Approach planning with a diocesan perspective, seeking the good of the whole Church.
- Travel to parishes as needed, listening to parishioners'



concerns with patience and understanding.

- Collaborate as a team to support priests and parish leaders, including participating in parish meetings and public events where input is sought.

This commission will also contribute to the development of parish planning tools designed to assist local discernment and decision-making. Through their work, the Planning Commission helps ensure that parishes across the diocese are well-prepared to carry out their mission in the years ahead.

Local Parish Planning Teams: Supporting parish mission and collaboration

Each pastor has established a Local Parish Planning Team for his parish or parish cluster to assist him in guiding planning efforts.

Formation and composition:

This past summer, each pastor identified four to six lay members from his parish or cluster to serve on his parish planning team. Team members may include trustees, parish administrators, pastoral council chairs, finance or facilities experts or other trusted parishioners. Members are those who the pastor feels are able to collaborate effectively with the Diocesan Planning Commission and respond to guidance from the bishop's staff.

Responsibilities of Local Parish Planning Teams:

1. Prepare for Regional Leadership Summits

- Attend their designated New Life Regional Leadership Summit alongside their pastor and other parish leaders pastors have invited to learn about parish planning and mission-centered strategies.

2. Review and study parish data

- Examine parish and cluster data to understand current resources, demographics, and trends.

3. Use parish planning tools

- Work with their pastor to apply diocesan planning tools,

discerning how the parish or cluster can become more mission-centered.

- Explore opportunities for collaboration across the cluster and within the regional context.

4. Submit parish and cluster plans for consideration

- Collaborate with Diocesan Planning Commission members for guidance and accompaniment.
- Identify additional resources needed to support parish planning locally.

5. Assess processes and seek efficiencies

- Evaluate ways to create operational efficiencies within parishes, across clusters and in coordination with diocesan offices.

6. Gather and develop feedback

- Collect input from parishioners as required for the planning process.
- Provide feedback to the bishop and the Diocesan Planning Commission regarding potential changes, collaboration and timelines.

7. Participate in additional regional meetings

- Share insights and updates from their parish or cluster with the Diocesan Planning Commission.
- Attend meetings with the bishop or his delegate to discuss opportunities for collaboration or adjustments in their region.

8. Take part in development of a long-range regional plan

- Assist the diocese in shaping a long-term, mission-focused plan for parish life and collaboration across the region.

Through this work, local parish planning teams will play a key role in helping parishes discern, plan and implement strategies that strengthen mission, foster collaboration and ensure vibrant parish life for the future. †



Diocesan Planning Commission members during a formation retreat held in September at Nazareth Retreat House in Crookston.



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Get to know the Diocesan Planning Commission



Alex Burkel

Alex is a member of St. Mary, Badger. He earned his MBA from Bemidji State University and currently works as a scrum master at DigiKey Electronics.

Alex and his wife, Ashley, have been married for three years and have a daughter who is one and a half years old. His favorite saint is St. Athanasius, while his favorite holy day is Christmas.



Brian Wavra

Brian is a member of Sacred Heart, East Grand Forks and a graduate of the University of North Dakota with a degree in economics. He currently works as

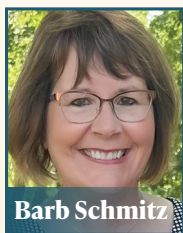
a product data manager for Acme Tools. Brian and his wife, Kelly, have one adult child. His favorite saint is St. Michael the Archangel, while his favorite holy day is Easter Sunday.



Father Tom Niehaus

Father Tom Niehaus serves as pastor of St. Mary's Mission, Red Lake and the Holy Spirit Newman Center at Bemidji State University. He earned a

bachelor's degree in secondary social studies from Mankato State University and a master's degree in geography from South Dakota State University before beginning his seminary studies. Father Tom was ordained a priest in 2008 and is a member of the Companions of Christ priestly fraternity. His favorite saint is St. John Bosco, while his favorite holy day is All Souls' Day.



Barb Schmitz

Barb is a member of St. Joseph, Brooks. She earned her legal secretary degree from a technical school and is now self-employed as a safety consultant

and is a soon-to-be published author. Barb and her husband, Arnie, have three adult children and five grandchildren. Her favorite saint is St. Padre Pio, while her favorite holy day is Christmas Eve, when she especially enjoys Mass at Sacred Heart, East Grand Forks, where her son, Father Matt, currently serves as pastor.



Deacon Jim Lukenbill

Deacon Jim is a member of Sacred Heart, Baudette, where he serves as a pastoral associate. He and his wife, Bernadette, have two adult children.

His favorite saint is St. Augustine of Hippo, while his favorite holy day is Holy Saturday and celebrating the Easter Vigil.



Deacon Tom Jirik

Deacon Tom is a member of St. Andrew, Hawley. He holds bachelor's degrees in agricultural economics and mass communications

from North Dakota State University (NDSU) and works as communications coordinator for the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute at NDSU. He and his wife, Mary, have been married for 39 years and have two married adult children. Ordained a deacon in 2008, he has served at St. Andrew's ever since. His favorite saint is St. Peter, while his favorite holy day is Holy Saturday and celebrating the Easter Vigil.



Hope Bach

Hope serves as youth minister at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Crookston. She graduated from the University

of Mary with a bachelor's degree in psychology and criminal justice. Her favorite saints are St. Peter and St. John Bosco, while her favorite feast day is the Feast of the Transfiguration.



Brant Bigger

Brant is a member of St. Francis Xavier, Lake Park. He earned a bachelor's degree in biotechnology from North Dakota State University and a master's degree

in horticulture from the University of Nebraska. Brant works as a support scientist with the federal Agricultural Research Service and is also a self-employed septic designer and inspector. He and his wife, Tami, have been married for 24 years and have three children: Hailey, Blake and Hannah. His favorite saint is St. Isidore the Farmer, while his favorite holy day is Trinity Sunday.



Jessica Foss

Jessica is a member of Blessed Sacrament, Greenbush and a graduate of St. Cloud State University with a degree in human

resource management. She currently works as a financial advisor at TruStone Wealth Management. Jessica and her husband, Troy, have two teenage children. Her favorite saint is St. Monica, while her favorite liturgical celebration is the Sacred Triduum.



Joshua DeCock

Joshua is from St. Joseph, Moorhead. Joshua graduated from NDSU with a degree in electrical engineering. Joshua is currently the vice president of product management at Pedigree Technologies. Joshua has six children from ages 14 to 3 with his wife, Tracy. His favorite saint is St. Thomas More, while his favorite holy day is Divine Mercy Sunday.



Laura Golden

Laura is a member of Sts. Peter and Paul, Warren. She earned her BSN in nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and is a stay-at-home mom who teaches the Creighton and Marquette Methods of natural family planning. Laura and her husband, Tyler, have been married for nine years and have four children, including a baby boy born this past September. Her favorite saint is St. Thérèse, while her favorite holy day is Divine Mercy Sunday.



LaVerne Moltzan

LaVerne is a member of Holy Rosary, Detroit Lakes. She earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Minnesota State University-Moorhead and a master's in management with a human resources concentration from the University of Mary. LaVerne enjoyed a 40-year career in banking and human resources and is now retired. She and her husband, Robert, have two married children and three grandchildren. Her favorite saint is St. Joseph, while her favorite liturgical celebration is Christmas Eve Mass.



LeAnn Carlson

LeAnn is a member of St. Peter the Apostle, Park Rapids and a graduate of St. Cloud State University with a degree in education. A former preschool teacher, she is now enjoying retirement. LeAnn and her husband, Dale, have four adult children and eight grandchildren. Her favorite saints are the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, while her favorite liturgical celebration is the Easter Triduum.



Patrick Brickson

Patrick is a member of St. Bernard, Thief River Falls. He earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of North Dakota and a master's degree in IT leadership from the College of St. Scholastica. Patrick currently works as an IT/data consultant with CHS, Inc. He and his wife, Laura, have been married for 31 years and have three adult children. His favorite saint is St. Patrick, while his favorite holy day is Holy Saturday and celebrating the Easter Vigil.



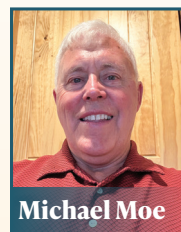
Shannon Smidt

Shannon is a member of Sacred Heart, East Grand Forks and works as an operations manager at the Nistler College of Business & Public Administration at the University of North Dakota. She and her husband, Greg, have two adult children and one granddaughter. Shannon's favorite saint is St. Joan of Arc, while her favorite holy days are Christmas Eve and Good Friday.



Vickie Anderson

Vickie is a member of St. Joseph, Beaulieu and a graduate of the College of St. Scholastica, where she earned her degree in physical therapy. She recently began working at a new clinic. Vickie and her husband, Barry, share a deep love of their faith. She has several favorite saints, including St. Scholastica, St. Faustina and St. Sebastian. Her favorite holy day is Christmas Eve, because she especially enjoys watching the children carry the statues to the manger during Mass.



Michael Moe

Michael is a member of Holy Rosary, Detroit Lakes and a graduate of the University of North Dakota with a degree in electrical engineering. He enjoyed a career as a pilot with Delta Airlines and is now retired. Michael and his wife, Jean, have three adult children. His favorite saint is St. Michael, while his favorite holy day is Holy Saturday and celebrating the Easter Vigil.



Pam Johnson

Pam is a member of St. Joseph, Moorhead and a graduate of the University of North Dakota, where she earned her bachelor's degree in accountancy. She works as a financial adviser with Alerus in Fargo. Pam and her husband, Mark, have two adult children. Her favorite saint is St. Jude, while she especially loves the liturgical celebrations of Holy Week.



Father Vincent Miller

Father Vincent serves as pastor of St. Joseph, Moorhead; St. Francis de Sales, Moorhead; and St. John, Georgetown. He is a priest of 27 years and holds a doctorate in sacred theology. His favorite saint is St. Vincent de Paul, while his favorite holy day is Holy Thursday.



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