



New Life

Through the Tender Compassion of Our God



Regional Planning for Mission: Meeting Agenda (1.5 Hours)

Total Time: 90 minutes

Purpose: To gather in prayer and reflection as we begin the “Planning for Mission” process in our parishes.

Location: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception | Thursday, 22, 2026 | 6:30pm

Parishes: Cathedral, Crookston; St. Francis, Fisher; St. Peter’s, Gentilly

38 participants – including Msgr. Baumgartner, and Fr. Matt Schmitz

DPC Members: Brian Wavra, Hope Bach

Jim Remer, Bishop Cozzens

1. Welcome and Introduction – Jim (5 minutes)

- “Who am I, and why are we here?”
 - Announcements made at parishes.
 - Time to hear from Bishop, adoration, feedback, questions.
- Brief overview of the purpose and spirit of the session.
 - Explain what we will do this evening
 - Briefly review principles from Regional Planning Process document.
 - Principles 5-8 of overview document.

2. Why We Are Here – Bishop (15 minutes)

- Opening Prayer by Bishop Cozzens
- What is *Planning for Mission*?
- Why prayer is the foundation of this process.
- Invitation to enter a time of reflection before the Lord.
- Announce that we will collect the questions after the sharing.

3. Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction (20 minutes)

Guided Reflection Prompts:

Bishop led a guided reflection before the Blessed Sacrament, inviting parishioners to answer the three questions below.

Three questions are provided on a half-page handout and collected afterward.

1. How have you encountered Jesus at your parish?
2. What is the greatest challenge you face as a parish?
3. What would need to change for your parish to grow?

(Conclude with Benediction.)

4. Small Group Sharing (15 minutes)

1. How have you encountered Jesus at your parish?
2. What is the greatest challenge you face as a parish?
3. What would need to change for your parish to grow?

5. Large Group Sharing (10 minutes)

Greatest challenge: declining age – no young people replacing

Truly experienced Christ in the Eucharist and scripture

6. The Planning for Mission Process – Bishop (15 minutes)

- Review of the *Planning for Mission* handout.
- Review of scenarios sheet.
- Walk through the steps of the process.

7. Closing and Questions (10 minutes)

- Floor open for comments or questions.

Q. Attendance is dropping, are we just losing Catholics in general?

A. Yes, we count every Oct. Demographics have changed in our communities.

Q. DO you ever talk to other Bishops? Bismarck is full. What are they doing?

A. Bismarck is the top 5 in the country for a culture of vocations. They have 4 Catholic high schools, and each has a priest as president. University of Mary brings young people to the community. 60% of the dioceses in the US are doing some form of parish planning.

Q. Do we have any Deacons in formation?

A. 3 to be ordained this spring, 13 in formation.

Q. You mentioned that we got priests from St. Paul- is this something you can do regularly?

A. No, it's very rare, because everyone has high needs. Sometimes you have some areas with less need and a generous bishop.

Q. Is money a big factor for someone becoming a priest?

A. Not for the man. The diocese does carry the cost of paying for the schooling.

Q. Deacon follow-up: the diocese pays for seminarians; does it pay for deacons?

A. No, deacons have to do that on their own.

Q. Any deacons retiring?

A. Yes, it is very similar to the priest situation - about half of our 24 active deacons will be up for retirement in the next 10 years.

Q. Is there any outreach on UMC campus?

A. Yes there is! Msgr. Baumgartner is wearing the merch!!

Q. Have there been any studies on why young people leave?

A. Yes, lots of it is cultural – faith and reason aren't compatible, moral teachings, etc.

Update on Fr. Boniface – we hope he will be here in three/four weeks.

- Closing remarks and blessing.
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe prayer