



ONE CHURCH  
ENCOUNTERING JESUS  
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES  
LIVING MERCY

May 1, 2019

Dear Parishioners of All Saints, Holy Family, and St. Rose,

As many of you already know, the Archdiocese of Omaha is going through a rural pastoral planning process. The process will result in a number of changes for parishes in our archdiocese. The primary impetus for this planning is the projected decrease of priests serving here in the archdiocese in the next 5 to 10 years. In 5 years, we can expect 24 fewer priests and possibly 34 fewer in 10 years.

The first step of planning in the rural area was to decide on which parishes to group together. To identify the groupings, we simply drew circles around the geographical areas of parishes that made the most sense. Then, based on the number of Catholics in the area, we estimated the number of priests each circle would need to serve the needs of the area. An original proposal for this area was made back in January 2019. Lots of conversations have happened and alternative scenarios discussed, and it appears we finally have a decision. The circle that was decided on for this region includes the following parishes:

St. Rose, Crofton  
All Saints, Cedar County  
Holy Family, Cedar County

Based primarily on the number of Catholics in the circle, which is 2,705 according to our 2017 statistics, it was decided that we would eventually assign one pastor and one associate pastor to this circle. The ratio of people to priest will be much better in this region, 1,352 to 1, compared to the archdiocesan average of 1,742 to 1.

The Archbishop, in consultation with the Personnel Board, has made a decision about who the pastor and associate pastor will be for the three parishes in this grouping. Archbishop Lucas has communicated with Fr. Jim Keiter, currently the pastor of All Saints, that he will be named Pastor and Fr. An Duy Phan, currently the Pastor of St. Wenceslaus in Dodge, that he will be named Associate Pastor.

Where the priests will live and what the Mass schedule will be has not yet been decided. A planning group consisting of 3 people from each parish will tackle these and several other questions together. This group has already met once on April 27th and will continue meeting every 2 to 3 weeks until satisfied that many of the big questions have been resolved and communicated.

One decision has already been made about Parish Councils. The planning group thought it would be wise to keep the Councils as they are for an indefinite amount of time and not hold any new elections. Any parish council members whose term is up can choose to stay on or opt out during this transition.

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to talk to your pastor, and they will gladly bring those to me. In the meantime, let's pray for one another and allow the Lord to give us a vision of the Church that is even more vibrant and alive than the Church we experience today.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Rev. Jeffrey P. Lorig*

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Director of Pastoral Services