

Highlights

Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting March, 2006

According to Church law (Canon 511),

“In each diocese, to the extent that pastoral circumstances recommend it, a pastoral council is to be established whose responsibility it is to investigate under the authority of the bishop all those things which pertain to pastoral works, to ponder them and to propose practical conclusions about them.”

Membership of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is comprised of representatives from diocesan committees and councils, and two representatives from each region, who meet five times each year with the bishop.

March Meeting Agenda

□ The Committee on Parishes report regarding the policies for the Diocesan Pastoral Council indicated their recommendation that it is too early to determine the relationship between Area Faith Communities and the Council. The revision of the policies was tabled until the next Council year.

□ The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and the Diocesan Pastoral Council are preparing a celebration of marriage and family for Sunday, October 1, 2006 at St. Mary's in Bird Island. It will include prayer, a program for various age groups, and a supper.

□ The plan for the 50th Anniversary observance and the evangelization process was revised. The plan will now be submitted to the Priests' Council for final review.

□ Tom Holzer, diocesan Director of Finance, presented the financial report for the fiscal year of 2004-2005. There was a gain in net assets due to lot sales and investment appreciation. The report was recommended to the Bishop for approval.

□ Wayne Pelzel, Diocesan Director of Development and Schools, presented the overview and timelines for the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. The first appeal is scheduled to begin with a major gifts campaign in September of 2006. The general appeal will be held on the first three Sundays of November, 2006. The Council recommended the establishment of the appeal to the Bishop.

□ The Council discussed the draft of the "Plan for the Future of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of New Ulm." Most of the comments reflected a general agreement with the direction that document recommends for the ministry – an expansion of area worship sites, the development of area and parish ministry, and new diocesan training opportunities for those involved and interested in the ministry. There were

also comments about the responsibility that the diocese has to provide quality ministry and regret that the response to the needs of Spanish speaking people has been slow. The comments and recommendations will be passed on to the Office of Hispanic Ministry.

□ For enrichment, the Council examined the permanent diaconate handbook from Saint Meinrad Seminary which offers a traveling program for the formation of permanent deacons that the diocese is considering. The USCCB document, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, was distributed for the Council's review. The document describes the phenomenon of lay ministry. The diocese is also considering the establishment of formation programs for lay ministers and parish leadership.

Next meeting: May 6, 2006, St. Catherine, Redwood Falls, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.