

Highlights

Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting – December, 2006

Membership of the Diocesan Pastoral Council is comprised of representatives from diocesan committees and councils, and two representatives from each region, who meet 4 times each year with the bishop.

December Meeting Agenda

- A new representative welcomed - Mike Bredick, Region 4.
- Wayne Pelzel, Director of Development, reported on the first annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal. The Appeal is projected to generate over \$1,000,000 well over the \$600,000 goal. The Bishop's Guild for those with gifts of \$1,000 or more has hundreds of members. Most of the parishes have exceeded their goals. Any amount over and above the parish goal is returned to the parish.
- Details for the 50th Anniversary Observance of the diocese were reviewed. The Social Concerns Committee has recommended an outreach project that would seek volunteers to build homes with Habitat for Humanity chapters in all of the regions of the diocese and in San Lucas Toliman. The Committee will further develop the outreach plan. The regional event in Marshall was discussed. Final details will be determined at the next meeting.
- A policy for the celebration of *Quinceaneras*, a Mexican religious custom for adolescent's fifteenth birthday, was reviewed and sent to the Worship Committee as well as the Hispanic Ministry Leadership Team for further refinement.
- As the revision of the Diocesan Pastoral Council policies continues, representation and selection of representatives were discussed. The Executive Committee will present a draft with two options: 1) a Council with representation elected by Area Faith Communities or 2) a Council with representatives chosen regionally by representatives from the Area Faith Communities.
- A discussion on the goals of the Diocesan Evangelization process determined three key goals: develop a deeper awareness of Baptismal responsibility; promote living one's faith on a daily basis; and, encourage all to pass on the faith. These recommendations will be sent to the Priests' Council for their suggestions.
- A summary of the concerns that were surfaced at the pastoral leader overnights during 2005-2006 was discussed. The summary was formulated by the Priests' Council. The Executive Committee will review the summary and report to the Council on any items that may require further study and action.
- For enrichment, Christopher Loetscher, Director of Family Life, presented the outline and topics for the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program. The Council will discuss next steps as it further studies marriage preparation in the diocese.

Next meeting: March 3, 2006, St. Catherine in Redwood Falls.