

15 December 2009

TO: Parishioners of Saint Joseph/St. Joseph, Saint Joseph/Waite Park, Saint Michael, Saint Paul and Saint Peter; Parents with children in our schools
FROM: Pastors—Fathers Joseph Feders, OSB, Bernie Gruenes, and Alan Wielinski
RE: Metro Planning Update

On the weekend of October 31/November 1, a letter from Bishop John Kinney was read at all Masses that addressed the Metro Area Planning Process for Catholic Education. Bishop Kinney expressed his gratitude to those who honored the process and were able to look to the common good. He also stated his desire to move forward. He identified two separate initiatives and a timeline for each of them. In his words:

I am asking each of the 15 parishes to enter into immediate discussion in *their parish or cluster* (emphasis added) and to formulate a total parish religious education plan by May 2010. This plan is to address adult faith formation, youth ministry, evangelization, social justice, and ministry to the non-English speaking people of our community.

To ensure the presence of Catholic schools in this area of the Diocese of Saint Cloud...(the parishes of) Saint Paul, Saint Peter, Saint Michael, Saint Joseph/Waite Park and Saint Joseph/St. Joseph... will engage in conversation by January 2010. I also am asking Cathedral High School/John XXIII to be invited to be part of this discussion. (This parish grouping is) to come up with a plan that addresses the survival of Catholic schools by January 2011.

This update addresses the second initiative concerning our parish Catholic schools.

By 15 February 2010, a team will be assembled, which will be responsible for presenting recommendations to Bishop Kinney by January 2011. This team will consist of the three pastors of the five parishes and two representatives from each parish (thirteen total members). The representatives of each parish will be selected by their respective pastors. These individuals will be chosen for their ability to be objective and visionary and to seek the common good. Team members will be identified so parishioners and school parents can contact them throughout the process, but to do so with the utmost consideration and respect.

The team will:

- Meet regularly beginning in February 2010 and until the process is completed before January 2011.
- Consult with parishioners, school, parish and diocesan staffs, Cathedral High School/John XXIII, and especially parents with children in our schools.
- Gather and study pertinent data and input from the various groups and use a consensus model of discernment to make its recommendations.
- Communicate regularly with all parishioners via Sunday bulletins and with school parents by means of regular modes of communication such as newsletters and email.
- Make recommendations for our Catholic schools to Bishop Kinney before January 2011 that will enhance collaboration among our five parishes especially in the areas of staffing, facilities, and financial resources.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact your pastor. May God's blessings be with you during this Advent season!