

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Pastoral Planning

ORIGINAL – 10/17/22 – THERE WILL BE UPDATES AS NEEDED

What is the process for making decisions for our family?

The Family Pastoral Planning Team (FPPT) was convened to make decisions regarding the workings of the new families. Wherever possible, the FPPT should make decisions by consensus (agreement by all members). If consensus cannot be reached, the FPPT should vote on the issue, record the results, and submit the decision to the Family's pastor(s) for resolution. If the pastor(s) cannot reach a decision and the FPPT is stuck, the team will consult with the Pastoral Planning Office of the Archdiocese of Omaha. If that consultation does not lead to resolution and the FPPT continues to be stuck, it will identify the issue and two options to resolve it, and submit the issue to the archbishop for a decision.

Was that process used in our family with the Catholic schools?

Yes until the last step. Our FPPT and priests *agreed not to propose anything other than the status quo for all of the schools in our family* to the archbishop. If we were held to the normative process for the last step, the FPPT will always propose the current system and the current system modified in some small way. If the archbishop rejected both of these proposals, the FPPT would again propose the current system and the current system modified in some other small way. This process would go on and on and on until what the archbishop found reasonable was finally determined. It seemed best to both the FPPT and the archdiocese to just have the archbishop decide what he wants.

How will the archbishop make his decision?

The first step was sending his delegation to our family for meetings in August. Additionally, his office is gathering data from our Catholic schools such as projected enrollment, cost per student and teacher allocation. He and his staff are currently reviewing the data and forming a decision that will align with the Archbishop's pastoral plan for the entire archdiocese.

When will a decision be made?

It is an involved process but hopefully by the end of the October.

Once the decision is made is there a process to appeal?

No. Input was requested at the parish meetings held in August. The information collected will be made available to parishioners. It was from this information, along with data provided by the parishes and schools that the Archbishop made his decision. His decision is final.

What role does the FPPT play in the decision about the potential consolidation/closing of Catholic Schools?

None. That decision is entirely up to the archbishop. *The committee and priests refused to propose anything other than the status quo for our family schools.*

Who determined the members of the FPPT?

The pastors appointed members from their respective parishes to serve in this capacity.

What were the criteria for this appointment?

The following criteria were used to determine FPPT members:

- 1) Trusted for judgement and counsel, and respected in the community
- 2) Able to effectively represent and communicate pastoral planning developments
- 3) A prayerful and mature disciple with an openness to more deeply re-orienting your faith community for mission, with a perspective that prioritizes One Church above loyalty to a particular parish

Are the mass times set?

Yes. They will be re-evaluated after a year to see if adjustments are necessary.

What are the new weekend mass times?

Saturday – 5pm, St. Francis; 6pm, St. Michael's; 7pm, Holy Family
Sundays – 8am, Holy Family, 8:30 St. Mary's; 10am, St. Francis; 10:30am, Ss. Cyril and Methodius

How were these new times determined?

The FPPT met and decided based on criteria that the archdiocese mandates for weekend masses. Under these new archdiocesan directives, priests are only allowed to say either (a) 4 masses in two churches or (b) 3 masses in 3 churches. Under the new schedule, one priest will say the four masses in Humphrey and Lindsay while the other would say the three masses in the three remaining churches, with time for confessions before mass. The priests would continue to alternate weekends.

It is important to note that many parishes in our archdiocese will no longer have weekend masses in their churches. We are blessed not to have this problem. However, all of us will need to adjust to working our lives around Jesus Christ rather than vice versa.

What are the new daily mass times?

M-Th – 8am, St. Francis – (school)

T-Fri – 8am, Holy Family – (school)

T, W, Fri – 2:30pm, Ss. Cyril and Methodius, (school)

Will there be other daily masses (e.g. First Friday)?

Yes, but their schedules will vary.

When will confessions be heard in our new family?

1 hour before the first weekend mass

30 minutes before the second weekend mass

30 minutes before daily mass

How are the finances going to work?

Expenses that are shared in the family will be allocated to each parish in the family based on the percentage of families in that individual parish to total number of families in the new family of parishes. Everything else remains the same.

Will my contributions to my parish/school stay in my parish/school?

Yes, with the caveat that expenses for shared resources will be allocated to individual parishes as outlined above.

Is my parish's/school's money going to stay in my community's bank?

Yes

How will bookkeeping work?

There will be one business manager responsible for overseeing all finances. This person will be located in Humphrey and also be responsible for the parishes and schools in Humphrey. Each parish with a school will have their own, local bookkeeper that will be responsible for the finances of the parish, but report to the family business manager with issues/questions. Each parish without a school will transition to having their bookkeeper be one of the three bookkeepers in the family. The hope is to consolidate as much as possible through natural transition and actual workload.

Where are the priests going to stay?

The hub for our family will be Humphrey because of the location at the center of the family and its relatively larger size. The priests' primary residence will be there.

What's the timeline for these changes?

All of these changes are part of a proposal that will be submitted to the Archbishop in November. The entire plan will either be accepted by the archbishop or returned to the committee to make revisions.

If the Archbishop approves our proposal, changes will be made as conditions merit. Some changes, such as mass schedule, will happen immediately on 7/1/23. Other changes, such as restructuring personnel, will occur as transition merits (e.g. the existing bookkeeper moves on). Other changes, such as whatever the archbishop proposes for the schools, may take more time to implement, but movement toward them will begin 7/1/23.