
Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Location: McDonell High School
1316 Bel Air Blvd., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

1. Opening prayer – *Fr. Jesse Burish* (3M)
2. Comments from Each Pastor (12M)
3. Presentations – *Meitler* (15M)
 - Survey Results
 - Vision for the Future
 - Overview of the Proposed Plan
4. Questions and Answers (15M)
5. Small Group Discussion on the Overview of Phase 1 (25M)
 - Introduce yourselves
 - Select a spokesperson for the group
 - Choose a starting point
 - Discuss by identifying AFFIRMATIONS and CONCERNS for the goals
6. Large Group Reporting (30M)
7. Next Steps (5M)
8. Closing Comments by Pastors and a Blessing (15M)



Vision and Strategy

“We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace.” - Pope Francis

As frequently as Pope Francis speaks of visions for the future of the Church, these three sentences may be some of his most profound. In undertaking a strategic plan for the Chippewa Falls area, a vision for the next five to ten years, and possibly beyond, is needed.

A vision for the future typically contains two main elements: **a vision phrase**, which summarizes the priorities and plan serving as a way of compressing the entire plan into a few words, and **the priorities**, which will guide the strategies and implementation. Four priorities for the future have been identified by the Leadership Team and the Planning Task Force as well as affirmed by the participants at the parish meetings.

The four priorities for the future are:

1. Collaborating to a greater extent on personnel, programs and resources

This priority builds upon the collaborative efforts of the Chippewa Falls parishes going back to the formation of an area Catholic school system. In addition to continuing their support for the system, the parishes have further collaborated on various ministries and programs.

2. Increasing evangelization efforts

The mission of the Church is “to proclaim the Good News of Jesus.” At this moment in time, the parishes must be more intentional and active in their efforts to evangelize.

3. Building a community of disciples by fostering a spirit of welcome

Parish efforts in building community are rooted in efforts to prepare disciples for mission and ministry. Following Jesus’ example, the parishes will strive to welcome all into the community – the lost, the least, the lonely, and the last.

4. Respecting the history of each parish while renewing a common focus on mission

The history of the parishes and schools in Chippewa Falls is remarkable and should be cherished. At the same time, there is an opportunity before us to start a new chapter in the local history of the Church.

The Leadership Team and Planning Task Force have discerned a final vision phrase. They have selected **United in Christ, Called to Mission** as the vision phrase which will guide the implementation of the plan over the coming years.



Overview

A. First Phase – 2021 to 2026

1. Parish Organization

- a. Cluster Holy Ghost and Notre Dame parishes; St. Charles Borromeo has its own pastor
- b. Establish a group to study pastoral and administrative needs and form a common staff for all three parishes at one parish office
- c. Maintain and expand opportunities for common prayer experiences and devotions
- d. Study and implement ways to expand the ministry of welcome and hospitality at Sunday Mass
- e. Form one parish pastoral council and combine the various committees
- f. The finance councils will remain separate by canon law but will meet jointly on a regular basis to review and discuss common issues and concerns
- g. Conduct mission-like events to prayerfully prepare for transitions and changes

2. Faith Formation and Evangelization

- a. Study how/if to coordinate all religious education for children and youth with MACS
- b. Develop a total youth ministry for adolescents
- c. Establish a ministry for young adults in their 20's and 30's
- d. Create faith sharing groups and/or retreat experiences for adults
- e. Create evangelization teams to contact present and former parishioners

3. Social Justice

- a. Study needs of people in the area to better serve and collaborate with local organizations
- b. Recruit and train more volunteers

4. Stewardship and Communications

- a. Create an area-wide approach to communications with parishioners, including bulletins, websites, social media and regular personal contact
- b. Determine a process for scheduling fund-raisers and capital campaigns so they are coordinated
- c. Establish ways to welcome and orient new members as well as invite them to share their gifts

5. Finances and Facilities

- a. Complete a facilities study by September of 2021 and devise a facilities master plan for all sites
- b. Reduce the parish investment or subsidy to the schools from 59.1% to 50% of ordinary income
- c. Conduct a coordinated capital campaign as part of the Diocese of La Crosse campaign

6. McDonnell Area Catholic Schools

- a. Emphasize the role of advancement and fundraising in the revenue stream of the school
- b. Investigate whether the pre-school program for one- and two-year-old children should be phased out
- c. Promote MACS as a 3-year-old to 12th grade school which includes BB4C with wrap-around care
- d. Create a facilities master plan for MACS

B. Second Phase – 2026

After the completion of the recommendations in the first phase over a five-year period, the parishes will likely be able to consider expanding the cluster or to consider a merger of the three Chippewa Falls parishes. There are additional recommendations for each area of ministry during this phase.

