

Update on our ACC Planning Council

Our Area Catholic Community Planning Council for the five parishes, Holy Cross in North Prairie, Holy Trinity in Royalton, Immaculate Conception and Rice, Our Lady of Mount Caramel in Opole and St. Stanislaus in Bowlus were appointed to represent a cross-section of our parishes in age, professional backgrounds and ministry experiences. We are an advisory and visionary counsel who gather information, listen to the voices of the people and connect with the Pastoral and Financial Councils of our parishes. Our Council first gathered on June 26 and has met about twice a month since then. Our task was to gather information on **what is now**, to envision **what could be** in our parish ministries and programs and to be aware of our strengths and challenges. Together we “Go out and make disciples” with a renewed effort and inter-parish collaboration. Our planning Council is charged with formulating a comprehensive plan that will be submitted to the diocesan planning office by the end of December, 2019.

Our counsel has proposed four goals for our first year as an ACC:

- 1) Create integration between the five parishes within the new ACC. We propose to hold five events during 2020-2021 that include a guest speaker followed by a social gathering.
- 2) Increased involvement of youth and young adults. We propose monthly social and faith-building events among ACC parishes.
- 3) Develop an evangelization program. We propose hiring a trained evangelization coordinator to manage the following programs: Bible studies, prayer groups, adoration and our CIA.
- 4) Create a welcoming committee. We propose selecting one member from each parish council to create an ACC welcoming committee that will contact and visit new parish members. The goals of the committee will be to welcome new members to the community, inform the new members what services are available to them, and let new members know what opportunities are available to them for sharing their time talent and treasure.

For the first phase of our ACC, pending approval and appointment by our Bishop, Fr. Tom would live in the Rice area and minister primarily to Immaculate Conception in Rice and Our Lady of Mount Caramel in Opole. Fr. Roger would live at Royalton and minister primarily to Holy Trinity, Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus. Fr. Tom would likely work out of an office in Opole and Fr. Roger out of an office in Royalton with secretarial assistance in each office.

The proposed mass schedule is: Saturday at 4:00pm in North Prairie and possibly an evening mass in Rice. Sunday masses would be at 8:00am in Royalton, 8:30am in Rice, 10:00am in Bowlus and 10:30am in Opole. There would be one daily mass in each parish .

In this first phase, there will likely be separate bulletins for Rice-Opole and for Royalton-Bowlus-North Prairie that would include a section listing all ACC mass times, events and information.

The areas of music and liturgy will likely remain the same for the time being, with efforts toward coordinating music and staff.

The same is true for religious education in the elementary grades. While they may remain separate on the elementary level they will try to work together on larger events and sacramental preparation.

Eventually we would hope to consolidate confirmation and post confirmation programs.

After some changes in envelope colors and banking arrangements, collections could be counted with parish counting teams gathering in the same area(s). Great way to get to know other ACC members!

We have not yet submitted an official name for our ACC. We have tossed around names like ReBORN, Penta and Prairie ACC.

Expenses shared by the five parishes will be divided using a percent-age determined by the number of households in each parish.