

Process Overview

On Dec. 8, 2005, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Bishop Carl Mengeling appointed the Diocesan Coordinating Commission to review a large amount of information that had been collected from clergy, pastoral coordinators, deacons, lay ecclesial ministers, teachers, parish councils and diocesan staff. The commission's mandate was to make recommendations about how the pastoral and sacramental needs of the diocese would be met over the course of the next several decades.

The commission's responsibilities included the following:

Develop a plan by which the 97 diocesan faith communities' sacramental and pastoral needs would be reviewed objectively and, with maximum local input;

Develop processes timelines and monitoring to ensure that the process addressed the pastoral, sacramental and administrative issues raised in the information-gathering phase;

Make recommendations, based on the guiding principles, to the bishop;

Communicate the information to the faithful.

In order to fully engage each parish and school in the process, detailed evaluation tools were completed by parishioners, staff and other constituents. Then, each region's representatives reviewed the information and presented preliminary findings at parish assemblies. The coordinating commission reviewed all the data and developed recommendations based on the data. The commission's preliminary recommendations were then forwarded to the bishop's consultative bodies for review. After their input, final recommendations were given to the bishop. His report is detailed below.

Update, July 1, 2012:

All changes to parish structures resulting from Planning Tomorrow's Churches can be found in the Vicariate pages at the beginning of this report.

When a pastor resigns, the original plan from Planning Tomorrow's Churches is consulted. If the plan calls for a merger or cluster, the plan is reviewed for any new information. If this new information warrants further consideration, the Diocesan Presbyteral Council and the Diocesan Pastoral Council are consulted. Bishop Boyea makes the final decision.