



Father Francis Xavier Pierz Catholic Community
P.O. BOX 428, PIERZ, MN 56364
Email: stjoes@midco.net, 320-468-6033

Dear Parishioners,

As we all know, we have been asked to look at the current reality of our parishes and how are we ministering to the people in our communities. I think it's a good idea to look at who we are and why we exist.

We are a community of believers whose lives have been transformed and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and we live in the promise of Jesus, "I came that you might have life, and have it abundantly. Jn. 10:10." We live this life in our daily prayer and relationship with the Lord and worshipping together as the body of Christ, nourished by His body and blood and life in the sacraments.

We exist to share Christ's love with the world, to save souls, make disciples, and become saints. This is the task the Lord has entrusted to each of us, "Go therefore and make disciples of nations. Mt. 28:19" The reason we exist as a Church in this area is to live boldly as believers, a people whose lives have been transformed by the living God, and invite others into relationship with Him as well.

How do we behave? We follow the example given to us by Jesus, we begin with being humble servants to all, we act with authentic charity and as courageous disciples of Jesus Christ. Our lives should demonstrate to the people we encounter, work with, and live with, that we are redeemed and transformed by our relationship with God and the life of the Holy Spirit within us. "You are the salt of the earth, a city on a hill... a light to the world. Mt. 13-15."

The way we live, worship, interact with each other as the body of Christ and interact with our communities, should attract others, so we accompany them into a relationship with Christ through prayer, worship, celebrating the sacraments, and lifelong faith formation.

As we discern how we can best fulfill the mission we've been entrusted with in this next phase of planning, it will serve us well to keep these questions in the forefront of our planning and discernment: Why do we exist? How do we behave? What do we do?

The Diocese has provided the following parameters for all Area Catholic Communities (ACC) in our diocese. The parameters are the same for each ACC, and each ACC will develop a plan to submit to the diocese. Following the diocese's parameters, each ACC has put together a committee that represents each of the parishes, and will meet to discern and develop the proposals that will be submitted to the bishop for approval.

No decisions have been made. *We have until Jan. 1, 2026, to discern and submit the proposals.*

Please remember, we have been given the parameters by the diocese, we did not decide or create these. We can expect some clarifications, but do not expect exceptions or fundamental changes.

Potential solutions and ideas, as well as constructive criticisms are welcome. We encourage you to share your ideas with your ACC All Things New committee members as they will be directly involved in the planning process. Callers to the office may be directed to the committee members. We ask for your prayers for our entire community, planning team, Father Aaron, and Bishop Patrick as we move forward.

Come Holy Spirit, set your Church on Fire! Deacon Craig Korver