

General Comments / Questions

Some things to consider:

Can we figure out what it would cost to simply heat/cool and maintain each church? These figures should go into the plan for the bishop to justify our decisions.

And the overwhelming response from nearly everyone is "transparency" and "accountability". Folks want to know where the money is going and not going and the times spent addressing the different needs of the ACC.

It seems like people are as frustrated with the St. Cloud diocese as they are with our own ACC. The faithful should have facts to lean on to stop the rumors and promote the truth.

Confusion as to who's in charge?

The People, Bishop, Father...?

Where are the people tonight?

They don't feel like their voice matters, not being listened to, why speak up now?

Some feel Fr. Aaron not listening or approachable (Please listen with compassion to all people)

Pope Francis, church is a field hospital, take care of all

Where do I as a member of the ACC fit in?

Can we counter parameters?

Why can't we rotate Masses / buildings?

What is the upkeep / heating / maintenance costs of each building?

How many total households are in our ACC?

Transparency /Professionalism (from the leadership)

Adam gone – Deacon here

we have not been informed

Has the Diocese considered reorganizing the ACC's?

The change in Liturgical expression has been challenging, people are already leaving, worried this will add to it.

The changes in the last 2 years have brought anxiety already.

How is what is worn and music or "refusing/delaying" a sacrament relevant to our mission?

The sacraments should bring us together, not apart.

Some are feeling judged

Is the decline in sacraments a result of parental catechesis and parental ownership of the faith?

Accessibility to Sunday Mass:

- Agree with the parameters
- looking at history more mobile than ever
 - Don't want to drive 30 miles for Mass
 - What about the 20%
 - people in this area are used to driving
 - Hillman, Onamia, St. Mathias, Brainerd, St. Cloud
 - Understanding why the parishes are so close
- Help people understand it's about the worship of God, not about the building
- Appreciate consistency of Mass times
 - would like to evaluate Mass times and locations
- If small towns lose the churches, what happens to the town?
- How do we build community if going to different ACC?
- Why don't we just have one church?
 - How can we be one now, and grow together through this?
- I hope the 4 communities can become one and "Live Eucharistic"
 - heartache, mourning, loss, fear now and...
 - This is a Spiritual Journey; emotions are part of it
 - Encouraging to hear others
 - Why not a couple central churches?
 - can we close them all and build one?
 - None of them is perfect as is
 - I like the full Masses on Sunday
- I attend all over now and feel welcome just like when I only went to my parish
 - fewer buildings will help us become one community
- Change is difficult, but there is hope and grace to come
 - Let's do this sooner than later

Budgeted Ministries:

What are Pastoral ministries?

can this be defined for clarity?

Can we even them up young – old (er-ish)

- Important to continue with what we've already gained
 - Can we maintain financials if we close a parish(es)?
 - Combining Festivals?
 - Seems like we are 4 parishes and all going different directions
 - not sharing resources
 - Pastoral care
 - Outreach for the elderly, singles, divorced, widowed
 - rides
 - visitation
 - How to get a priest in emergency
 - Priest
 - Deacons
 - Lay ministers
 - Liturgical Ministries
 - music
 - servers
 - lectors
 - ushers
 - Volunteer ministries
 - centralized leadership
 - sharing volunteers
- Bible Study
 - Not just in people's homes
 - everyone should feel welcomed
- Catechism / Adult formation
- Quilters
 - not valued or wanted or necessary?
- Hospitality
 - after Masses
 - discouraged from talking in the church
 - How do we connect?
 - creating the culture of welcome
 - Inviting others to belong
 - Easier with less buildings?

Pastors / Priests

- Feel like bishop doesn't reply to correspondence
 - why not more foreign priests?
- We want them healthy, not just going through the motions
- Still need to promote vocations
 - Truthful preaching / teaching
 - Marriage, family life, holy vocations
 - connecting families coming for Baptism, Marriage, etc.
 - Would like more mission / adult formation
- Priest has to be willing to delegate, (give up responsibilities)
 - Father willing to let know if overwhelmed
- What is the makeup of Father's time? Admin / Pastoral / Driving / ??
 - People don't know what the priest is doing
 - Spiritual care of the people, not finances
 - Hard to get a meeting with Father
 - Would like the priest more available after Masses
 - Is decorating / music pastoral care?
- 4 Masses too many (has to be exhausting)
 - Why are there weekday Masses if the priest needs time for spiritual care?
 - Retired Priests should only be an occasional thing, they are not a solution
 - been drug on long enough, go to 3 Sunday Masses
 - too busy running to the next thing
 - not present to people
 - not fair to the clergy
 - Confession not before all Masses
 - Why not have the sacraments all together
 - not just a first communicant, together with friends
- We need to look long term
 - What if we ended up going to 2 Masses?
- Transparency
 - How are the Mission / Student trips shared?
 - how are we informed and involved?
 - Quarterly informational meetings?
 - Adam came and gone
 - don't want the details but to be informed
- Deacons
 - are a blessing to us as well
- Laity
 - We have a role / responsibility
 - Assist with Spiritual care
 - Speak up and support (not gossip / undermine)
 - Support Father Aaron
 - Support Church teaching
 - be bold
- Where is the Outreach ministry?
- Seems like the older generation is pushed away
 - only want our money
 - where are our adequate services?

Buildings

- We accept the fact there will be fewer buildings, but this needs to be done carefully and intentionally
 - Giving up kingdoms
 - this is mine
 - we are in this together
 - This is hard! It's not okay to say, "It's just a building."
 - It is a building, but a building with sacred memories and blessed time with the parish family
 - can one be used as an Adoration chapel?
- What about cemeteries?
- Communication!
 - decisions
 - email
 - is there a parish system to send out emails to all parishnors?
 - phone tree
- Who decides where the primary church is?
 - do we rename all the churches?
 - no one left out
 - We will find a "new" routine
 - how do we accompany and welcome people
 - This is going to be difficult and a process of grieving and adjusting
- Do we have accurate capacity numbers for each building?
 - people not going to their parish
 - convenient Mass time
 - don't like the liturgy
- What happens to the building if it closes?
 - Chapel / Oratory
 - funerals, weddings, etc.
 - how is it funded?
 - What are the options for a closed building?
 - repurpose?
 - Sale of property?
 - retreat center
 - religious community
- What happens if we aren't at 50% capacity?
- Will people enroll in a different parish if theirs closes?
 - some are leaving now for the wrong reasons
- Mass Times
 - going from 6 to 4 I didn't feel as alone
 - nice to attend with a fuller church
 - lots of "younger" people
 - Attendance should go up when going to 3 Masses
 - Attendance was up before no Sunday Mass
 - 8:00pm Saturday?
 - Sunday: Buckman / Harding Saturday: Pierz ?
 - Pierz and Buckman are "full"
 - Would like to see more people in Pierz

- Church Buildings
 - Pierz
 - primary?
 - largest
 - central
 - not set up for social growth and fellowship
 - Harding
 - elevator to the loft
 - helpful for those needing the assistance
 - Buckman
 - 542 on Palm Sunday
 - some in the hall
 - Lastrup
 - Event Center?
 - has a ramp, but a lot harder to get into the building than the other churches with an elevator
 - seems obvious, closing is inevitable

Governance

- Fewer parishes = fewer cooperation's
 - one council instead of 4 would be beneficial
 - touchy subject especially with finances
 - Where does the money go if a church is closed?
 - how will the H.T. contribution be met if a church is closed?
 - Does combining save money?
 - fear of “their” money going to a “different” church
 - already an issue
 - school
 - if confirmation is not in our building we’re not paying for the cake
 - worried people will only want to do minimum, not what’s best
 - Need to talk as if we are one, not four
 - Business Administrator
 - why would we let one person decide where the money goes?
 - is this taking away from volunteers?
 - Transparency from all parishes
 - financial
 - personnel
 - did not know Adam gone
 - Staff roles and responsibilities
 - job descriptions
 - roles and responsibilities (clarity of who does what)
 - volunteers
 - trustees
 - councils
- Central office (more efficient)
 - How efficient is sharing offices and part-time staffing?
 - Receptionist
 - 40hr week
 - Return phone calls
 - promptly within a day
- - makes sense to centralize and have single administration
 - similar to how the school is
 - don’t just share resources, make one
 - More professionalism in office
 - trained staff
 - provide / expect training
 - professional skills
 - stop the “chatting” in the office
 - Why are we not informed?
 - Are we getting another one?
 - Embarrassed that we are in the dark
 - We don’t need to be included in the decision, but we do need to be informed

Finances

- One account to fund all parishes not fair
 - Keep parish finances separate. Money not merged
- Finances should stay with building, no transfers
 - money raised for a project should be used for the project
- \$\$ to the school are skewed parishes should pay per pupil
- Can't support everything as it is
- Why don't we talk about giving more?
 - tithing
 - commitment Sunday
 - when we give to the church God provides
 - start small and build their commitment over time
 - testimonies in bulletin
 - discipleship
 - giving of time and talent
- Can rectories be rented out?
- What happens to the payments to the Diocese if a church closes?
 - Do the others have to make up the assessment?
- Why do we have to use Catholic United for insurance
 - seems expensive
 - other options?
- Transparency
 - We can handle the truth
 - Closing a Church and want a new organ ???
- Holy Trinity
 - How can it stay viable if we close a church(s)?
 - Should it stay open?
- Plate collection
 - how is this more reliable than a fundraiser?
 - why can operations only be 25% of plate?
 - bequests are becoming less
 - fundraising is getting harder
- How do you balance 40% to school
- Lastrup makes a lot on gambling, is this how we want to fund our mission?