



Vision for the Catholic Church in Bettendorf

Updated February 21, 2020

The parish leadership of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and St. John Vianney Parish are asking how the Catholic church in Bettendorf can best fulfill the church's mission. This question has been asked for some time, and the answer for how the church will look in the future has been slowly evolving. There has been forward progress.

It started in the summer of 2016 when Lourdes Catholic School kicked off a strategic planning session. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish followed in the spring of 2017 with a pastoral planning process. Many of the needs that resulted from these planning sessions identified facilities as a major issue. A facilities committee was formed, and the committee initially identified three possible directions for moving forward: do nothing, remodel/renovate, relocate and build new facilities.

Bishop Zinkula was consulted on whether the relocation and building of a new facility would even be possible. After consulting with diocesan advisors, the Bishop asked that a committee be formed "to study the needs of the Catholic Church in Bettendorf for the best growth and development for the well-being of the Church." (Bishop Zinkula, letter Aug. 21, 2017). Bishop also asked that the Davenport Deanery be consulted, along with Our Lady of the River, LeClair and St. John Vianney, Bettendorf. The Diocesan Superintendent of Schools and the Scott County Catholic Schools committee were also consulted.

On January 19, 2018, Fr. Jason Crossen presented information to the Davenport Deanery. The priests were supportive of a parish study and the consensus was to proceed with the study. Fr. Jason Crossen, Fr. Jim Vrba and Fr. Joseph Wolf gave their blessing to forming a study committee. The committee formed was comprised of over 30 members with a two-fold objective: 1) gather information and data regarding population and growth in Bettendorf and 2) discuss how that growth affects the larger Catholic Community of Bettendorf.

From January 2018 to August 2018, the Committee collected and analyzed data and formulated several scenarios, ranking them and looking at the pros and cons to each scenario. Five scenarios were presented to Bishop Zinkula in October of 2018:

1. No Change (Update only critical building needs)
2. Renovate (Stay in the current location and update the facilities)
3. Relocate Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and Lourdes Catholic School
4. Combine Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Lourdes Catholic School and St. John Vianney Parish
5. Relocate the Lourdes Catholic School alone and keep the current locations of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. John Vianney Parishes.

After reviewing the presentation, Bishop Zinkula asked parish leadership to further study and engage the parish communities with the option of relocation of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and School and the option of combining the two parishes of St. John Vianney Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

In May 2019, several parish information meetings took place to inform parishioners about the historical process and milestones that led up to the current recommendations by Bishop Zinkula. The general perception has been very positive. Later in 2019 another meeting with Bishop Zinkula occurred, and Bishop has asked the Bettendorf Catholic Community to provide input about parishioner opinions and beliefs surrounding options for St. John Vianney Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Specifically regarding new building, merging, and the importance of Catholic School Education. This input will be of assistance to those involved in Diocesan planning.

To move us forward, the parishes have engaged the services of Meitler, a national consulting firm known for bringing plans to action with over forty years of experience consulting within in the Catholic church. Meitler will help us take the

next steps to disseminate information to our parishioners, to gain a better understanding of our options, and to seek input about the future of the Catholic Church in Bettendorf. Surveys, small and large group meetings, and small group sessions will be held over the next three months to share information and gather parishioner input. Meitler will guide the conversation and with the guidance of a group of lay leaders and pastors, deliver a strategic and detailed recommendation for moving forward. The goal is to form a wide consensus around one plan for the Catholic Church of Bettendorf that can succeed with a high level of participation and prepare the way for implementation.



Please look for opportunities to be involved in the coming months. You can find the latest information at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. John Vianney websites. May the Lord guide our deliberations to seek His will for our parish communities.