



Parish-wide Meeting w/ Q&A Bettendorf Catholic Community

September 14, 2020
and
September 22, 2020



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Fr. Jason Crossen/ Fr. Jim Vrba

Welcome & Opening Prayer



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Brief History of the Study

Purpose of the parish meetings is to share with you all the information and insight which has been studied and learned over the past three years.

- Study began in 2017
- Both parishes were assessing facilities condition and ability to expand
- Developed five scenarios
- Consulted with the Bishop and diocesan officials
- Developed key rationales and future options
- Conducting parish meetings and making information available: ***Preparation Report, Q & A, Summary of Rationales and Options***
- Parish survey



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Overview of the Key Rationales

- Maximize mission activity
- Conditions of the facilities and ability to expand
- Availability of priests for parish ministry
- Funding a building project
- Need for a Catholic school in Bettendorf
- Population growth



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Maximize Mission Activity

- Sharing the same mission is what makes us Catholic
- Called to make disciples and evangelize all peoples
- Merging and clustering of parishes is a growing practice in the diocese and around the country.
- Mergers and clusters allow for the development of synergy and economies of scale.



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Condition of Facilities/Ability to Expand

- Current facilities limit the capability to support growth in mission and ministry.
- At St. John Vianney, limited ability to expand. Need new roof and other improvements.
- At Our Lady of Lourdes, buildings are aged and not well-located or suited for future growth.
- Should parishes invest in current facilities or build new?
- Both parishes are land-locked and do not have enough property for future growth.



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Availability of Priests for Parish Ministry

- Of the 55 current priests in the diocese, only 22 will be under age 70 by 2030.
- 52 of the 72 parishes share pastors.
- In the future, it is likely that both parishes will share a pastor with a parochial vicar.
- Despite the promotion of priestly vocations, the volume of priest retirements is outpacing ordinations.



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Funding a Building Project

- Vibrant parishes often conduct capital campaigns every 5 to 10 years. These include pledges for a multi-year period and larger gifts from major donors.
- Diocese requires 60% cash to begin a project and the balance can be mortgaged.
- A tract of land is available in an ideal location courtesy of generous people.
- A building project is likely to be "phased," allowing for construction over a long period of time and transitioning from current facilities.



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Need for a Catholic School in Bettendorf

- Bishop Zinkula strongly supports Catholic education in Bettendorf.
- New facilities will keep the school competitive with public and other schools.
- Newer facilities in a more strategic location and designed for excellent educational programming should ensure solid enrollment for the future.
- Facilities will also be used for lifelong faith formation and serve all parishioners.



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Population Growth

- City of Bettendorf is projected to grow by 8,000 residents or 25% over the next fifteen years.
- 1 in 4 residents are Catholic.
- Parish population could grow by another 2,000 members or 800 families/households.
- Additional growth can come from evangelization efforts to non-practicing Catholics and the unchurched.



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Questions and Clarifications on Rationales

Raise Your Hand on the Bottom Dashboard "Participants"
To ask a Question



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Overview of the Future Options

- Relocate Lourdes to the growth area and St. John Vianney remains at its present location.
- Parishes merge, are given a new name, Lourdes relocates to new site and St. John Vianney remains at its present location.
- Parishes merge, are given a new name, and both relocate to a new site.



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Future Options

Relocate Lourdes to the growth area and St. John Vianney remains at its present location.

- Same parish names, separate churches
- Each has a pastor for now
- Separate staff, separate councils
- Cost for construction is responsibility of Lourdes
- Catholic school governed and funded under Scott County Catholic Schools through parish assessments



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Future Options

Parishes merge, are given a new name, Lourdes relocates to a new site and St. John Vianney remains at its present location.

- One new parish name
- Two worship sites and other facilities
- One pastor and vicar
- One staff
- One parish and one finance council
- Cost for construction is responsibility of new parish
- Catholic school governed and funded under Scott County Catholic Schools through parish assessments



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Future Options

Parishes merge, are given a new name, with both relocating to a new site.

- New parish name
- One church
- One pastor and vicar
- One staff
- One parish and one finance council
- Cost for construction is responsibility of new parish
- Catholic school governed and funded under Scott County Catholic Schools through parish assessments



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Questions and Clarifications on Options

Raise Your Hand on the Bottom Dashboard "Participants"
To ask a Question



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Poll

- What parish are you a member of?
- At the present time, which option are you leaning towards as your preference?
(Couples on the same device select up to two answers if you are split. If you are on the call as an individual, please select only one answer.)
 - Relocate Lourdes church and school toward the growth area of Bettendorf and St. John Vianney remains at its present location.
 - Parishes merge and are given a new name with Lourdes relocating to a new site and St. John Vianney remaining at its present location.
 - Parishes merge and are given a new name with both relocating to a new site.



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Survey Preview

- Information about parish registration, length of membership, and age group
- Which rationale is the most compelling and why?
- Which option do you prefer and why?
- How willing are you to contribute to a capital campaign?
- Any concerns or suggestions you may have.
- Survey will open in later September
- Survey will close in early October



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Pastors' Comments and Closing Prayer

- Fr. James Vrba
- Fr. Jason Crossen



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Additional questions may be submitted to adiaz@meitler.com



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