

**THE PASTORAL PLAN FOR
PARISH RENEWAL AND RESTRUCTURING
Updated Plan (November 6, 2014)**

Pastoral Partnership Parishes:

St. Francis, Aviston; St. Rose, St. Rose; St. Felicitas, Beaver Prairie

Worship

What are we already doing together?

1. We participate in a cluster Mass each August for the Feast of Assumption of Mary with donations earmarked for Poverty Service's Prisoner Literacy program and the JustFaith program.
2. We celebrate a Baptismal water exchanging rite on Pentecost.
3. We provide joint Communal Penance Services throughout the year.

What do we plan to do when we have only one priest?

1. The above worship activities will continue with the approval of the pastor. We will continue to explore additional activities that can be combined.
2. A new Mass schedule has been discussed in great depth. Our previously submitted plan included detail as to the space and time limits we are facing as a partnership. We have revisited these challenges and believe we have a viable option. We have developed a preliminary schedule for Masses when there is only one priest available (see attached preliminary schedule). This revised Mass schedule would require using the cafeteria at St. Rose and the gymnasium at St. Francis (hereafter termed "annex space") in order to seat all parishioners each week. The St. Francis and St. Rose buildings are situated such that adding on to the current church buildings would not be feasible. Also, the interior of each church building is such that expansion or remodeling would be cost prohibitive in comparison to additional seats gained. The annex space at each parish seats approximately the same number as its church building. Therefore, using the annex space instead of the church for a principal Mass would not solve the issue. We are studying the possibility of using the St. Rose cafeteria and the St. Francis gymnasium as annex locations to serve as an overflow area, using technology to provide the audio and visual of the Mass to those seated in the annex spaces.

3. As a Parish Partnership we feel it is vital to the Catholic faith community to maintain a presence in the St. Felicitas community. When there is only one priest to serve this group, St. Felicitas will be merged into St. Rose parish and the current St. Felicitas parish building will become a Chapel. As a chapel, the building would be available to hold weddings, funerals and special celebrations for the partnership. The existence of this location would take the strain off the scheduling for St. Francis and St. Rose. St. Felicitas parish has been in existence for more than 140 years. The deep roots and rich history of this parish are an integral part of Catholic life on the prairie. The church is a focal point of many religious, social, and community activities. The Catholics of the area are anchored to the church, the earth, and each other through this country church and the traditions of our faith. People of the community gather there for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and celebrations, as well as weekly Mass and other social and community events. They hold these traditions in their hearts. The people of the prairie are committed to preserving their community for future generations.
4. Deacons will assume more responsibility for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other pastoral and administrative duties.
5. We continue to pray for inspiration regarding the Mass schedule, especially for Christmas and Easter Masses and Holy Week services. We have great concern about a single priest's endurance capabilities and the churches' seating limitations for these special times. We have developed a preliminary plan for alternating annually the Easter Mass and Triduum Services schedule between St. Francis and St. Rose. We have also developed a preliminary plan for Christmas Masses and other Holy Days of Obligation.

Faith Formation

What are we already doing together?

1. The Partnership, along with other local parishes, has a combined Right of Christian Initiation of Adults program, Pre-Cana workshops, and JustFaith social justice program.
2. We encourage partner parish participation in all adult faith formation programs, including fall and Lenten Bible study, missions, yearly combined retreats, video presentations (recently Father Robert Barron's "Catholicism")

- video series), monthly “Catholicism on Tap” presentations, special speakers on current moral issues, and in-service training for lectors, commentators, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.
3. The Partnership coordinates First Communion and First Reconciliation schedules.
 4. Catechetical leaders of PSR Programs meet regularly to share ideas, discuss updated materials, and plan workshops/courses for catechist certification.

What do we plan to do when we have only one priest?

1. The above faith formation programs will continue under lay leadership with the approval of the pastor.
2. The youth in both St. Francis and St. Rose are blessed with a rare – in these times – 5-day-a-week religious education program. Both these programs use the Sadlier Religion program. The Parish School of Religion program is held on weekday mornings before school begins. The parishioners feel that it is very important to continue to provide this 5-day-a-week program. The timing of these programs has been successfully coordinated with the public school system for many years. Both programs are staffed by teachers who have committed themselves to teaching the children the fundamentals of our Catholic faith. They prepare the children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation and teach the fundamentals of the faith. These programs have nearly 100% participation. We are very proud of the commitment to the faith and the programs in these parishes. Many of the children go on to Catholic High School. This PSR foundation is fundamental to the continuation of the faith in our communities. Currently, each of these parishes has weekday morning Masses on various days, alternating with PSR classes. We recommend when there is only one priest, that St. Francis parish and St. Rose parish each have two weekday Masses before school hours for their PSR programs. In St. Felicitas parish, the PSR program is currently held on Sunday mornings before Mass. The religious education of the children of St. Felicitas parish is fundamental to their growth in knowledge and faith as Catholics. The present program is staffed by teachers who have committed themselves to teaching the children the fundamentals of our Catholic faith. When St. Felicitas is no longer a parish, the education of the children will need to be continued. Due to the different

school district boundaries, combining them into the St. Francis or St. Rose PSR program is not an option. Therefore they would continue with their own PSR program. The partnership is committed to ensuring each child is provided religious education.

3. We recommend that one deacon or appropriately trained lay person be assigned to each parish to aid in Parish Life Formation.
4. We plan to pursue a joint program of religious formation for students not attending Mater Dei High School with our parish ministry teams.
5. We plan to form a committee of parents, catechists and DREs from the parishes to foster greater communication and cooperation within and among our parish schools of religion.
6. We plan to explore combining of the CYM programs in our parishes if needed.
7. One DRE will service the partnership, with separate CREs in each parish as needed.

Outreach

What are we already doing together?

1. We offer our combined parishes the JustFaith social justice leadership program annually.
2. We coordinate collections of goods for the Breese Food Bank, St. Vincent de Paul's Food Bank in Germantown, and Thrift Store in East St. Louis.
3. We regularly prepare casseroles for Cosgrove's Kitchen in East St. Louis.
4. We adopt Holy Angels Shelter, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Hispanics and other low income families for Christmas gifts each year.
5. We recruit volunteers for Meals on Wheels, the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in East St. Louis, Community Link special projects, and Nursing Home Ministry.
6. We encourage involvement in CRS Operation Rice Bowl and the Catholics Confront Global Poverty advocacy program.
7. We support Poverty Service's Prison Literacy Program with a collection at our combined parish liturgy for the Feast of the Assumption each year.

8. We cosponsor Respect Life activities throughout the year, including collections for the Highland Pregnancy Care Center, Bond County Pregnancy Center, and Fontebella Maternity House.
9. We meet with Mr. Bob Rapp (our combined parishes' part-time Hispanic Minister) and members of the local Hispanic community to seek greater cooperation and mutual understanding.

What do we plan to do when we have only one priest?

1. Our lay leadership will continue with the above outreach programs with the pastor's approval.

Administration

What are we already doing together?

1. We are meeting regularly as a Partnership Leadership Group.
2. We are using parish websites to communicate Partnership events and news, including links to the other parishes' websites.
3. We are advertising each others' activities and events in separate bulletins.
4. We are exploring a method of calculating a fair and accurate formula for sharing joint costs (i.e., salary, retirement, housing, etc.).
5. We are exploring the need for a shared lay person to handle administrative duties, knowing that the priest will need assistance in administration of the parishes.
6. Administrative personnel meet regularly to discuss best practices, cross training, and standardization of practices.
7. We are maintaining a directory of key individuals in each parish and developing a strategic plan to serve as guidance when there is only one priest.
8. We are developing a Partnership calendar of recurring meetings and social events for the next 5 years. The partnership calendar will include joint meetings of St. Rose and St. Felicitas Finance Councils to begin planning for changes, as well as joint meetings of the Pastoral Councils of these parishes.

9. We are developing a plan for replacing retiring or resigning staff with shared staff as needed. The plan will include uniform position descriptions for all lay staff in the parishes. The plan will also include the addition of a shared lay person to handle administrative duties of the parishes as needed.
10. We are developing the infrastructure to provide on-line giving to promote convenience and ease of monetary contributions for all partnership members.

What do we plan to do when we have only one priest?

1. We will continue to meet regularly as a Partnership Leadership Group to discuss ongoing changes and new issues as they occur.
2. We will continue to refine the processes put into place during the planning and development of the strategic plan.
3. We will hold Finance Council meetings at the same location, date, and time to assist the priest with scheduling. The same approach will be used for Pastoral Council meetings. By combining the council meetings in one evening the priest's schedule will be more manageable. Pastoral Councils will also meet with lay administrative personnel as needed to assist the priest.
4. We will consider combining parish groups (i.e., CYM, Sodalties, etc.).
5. We will continue to develop the features of the parish websites to enhance information sharing and interaction among the parishes.

Fr Edward G. Schaefer, JCL
Sister Diane Marie Thomas, SSND

PARISH PARTNERSHIP

St. Rose, St. Rose

St. Francis, Aviston

St. Felicitas, Beaver Prairie

LITURGICAL SERVICE SPACE PLAN ONCE THERE IS JUST ONE PRIEST:

Note all of these proposed schedules will be reviewed and adjusted if needed)

Normal Sunday Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday 4 PM: St. Rose, St. Rose (St. Rose Annex via satellite)

Saturday 6:30 PM: St. Francis, Aviston (St. Francis Annex via satellite)

Sunday 8 AM: St. Rose (St. Rose Annex via satellite)

Sunday 10:30 AM: St. Francis (St. Francis Annex via satellite)

Christmas Mass Schedule:

4 PM: St. Rose, St. Rose (St. Rose Annex and St. Felicitas via satellite)

6:30 PM: St. Francis (St. Francis Annex via satellite)

11 PM: St. Rose (St. Rose & St. Francis Annexes via satellite)

7 AM: St. Francis (St. Francis Annex via satellite)

9 AM: St. Rose (St. Rose & St. Francis Annexes & St. Felicitas via satellite)

11 AM: St. Francis (St. Francis Annex via satellite)

Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, Holy Days of Obligation Mass Schedule:

8 AM: St. Rose, St. Rose (St. Rose Annex and St. Felicitas via satellite)

10:30 AM: St. Francis, Aviston (St. Francis Annex via satellite)

7:30 PM: Rotate St. Rose and St. Francis

(St. Rose & St. Francis Annexes & St. Felicitas via satellite)

Easter, Holy Week Mass and Services Schedule:

Annually alternate the following between St. Rose and St. Francis:

1) Thursday, Friday, Saturday Evenings and 9AM Easter Sunday:

(St. Rose & St. Francis Annexes & St. Felicitas via satellite)

2) Easter 7AM and 11 AM

(St. Rose & St. Francis Annexes & St. Felicitas via satellite)

Weekday Mass Schedules:

2 mornings: St. Rose

2 evenings: St. Francis

Weddings and Funerals:

St. Felicitas Chapel will assist parishes to meet needs of entire Parish Partnership.