

PARISHES OF CARROLL COUNTY

March 2018

Dear friends in Christ,

As part of the Ministry 2025 process, the priests and deacons of the Carroll County team have been meeting with the two lay directors from each of the thirteen parishes for the past several months. In dialogue with the Diocese of Sioux City, we have been doing the difficult work of trying to devise a plan that addresses the priest shortage within our diocese, as well as the changing demographics within the County. This process has not been easy. Difficult decisions must be made as we face these issues.

In the end, we have come to the following plan that features two clusters of parishes.

Cluster A

- In this cluster, there will be the current parishes of **Holy Spirit and St. Lawrence** in Carroll. These two parishes will be **unified to form one parish with two worship sites**. This means that on the surface, in the day-to-day life of the parish, the average parishioner will see little change. Both church sites will continue to be used. The primary changes will come in the administration of the parishes, as there will be one office site and a unified staff serving the needs of the unified parish.
- Aligned with this parish, will be three rural parishes:
 - **St. Mary Parish in Willey**
 - **St. Joseph Parish in Dedham**
 - **Annunciation Parish in Coon Rapids**
- This cluster will be served by three priests: **a Pastor and two parochial vicars**. The second parochial vicar will also serve as a chaplain to Kuemper Catholic School.

Cluster B

- In this cluster, there will be six of the rural parishes:
 - **St. John Parish in Arcadia**
 - **St. Bernard Parish in Breda**
 - **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Mount Carmel**
 - **St. Augustine Parish in Halbur**
 - **Sacred Heart Parish in Templeton**
 - **St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Glidden**
- This cluster will be served by two priests: a Pastor and senior priest, Fr. Timothy Schott.

Oratory Status

- Unfortunately, two parishes will need to become oratories beginning in July of this year:
 - **Holy Family Parish in Lidderdale**
 - **Holy Angels Parish in Roselle**

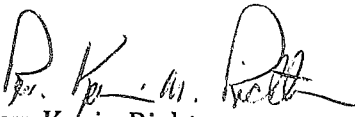
- Being an **oratory** means that these sites will no longer:
 - Be a parish – rather the site will become part of a neighboring parish.
 - Have regular weekend or weekday masses. But an oratory is maintained so that on occasion, Mass may be celebrated there for a patronal feast or an anniversary, etc. An oratory may also be used for weddings and funerals, for special devotions and for private prayer.
- Two additional sites will become oratories once Fr. Tim Schott is no longer able to serve as a senior priest for our parishes. I emphasize, that this could be a matter of a few months, or it could be a good number of years (which is Fr. Schott's hope and intention) before these two sites would become oratories:
 - **St. Elizabeth Seton parish in Glidden**
 - **Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Mount Carmel**
- In future conversations with the Finance Councils and the people of each of these sites, it may be determined to simply close a site rather than maintain it as an oratory. At that point, decisions would be made about what to do with the property.

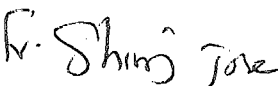
In the coming months, there will be more meetings with the priests, deacons and parish lay directors to complete the steps needed to implement the plan and to engage in a pastoral planning process that will strengthen our parishes for future ministry and service for the entire Catholic community of this county.


Besides the closing, merging and realignment of parishes, part of the Ministry 2025 process is to strive to improve the strengths and minimize the weaknesses in each separate parish. Additionally, we want to continue to evangelize those who have fallen away from the church, and we want to strive to create an overall culture that promotes deeper faith and an increase in vocations to priesthood and religious life.


Please continue to keep the Ministry 2025 process in your prayers. It is a difficult time for many people with significant transitions being asked of all of us.

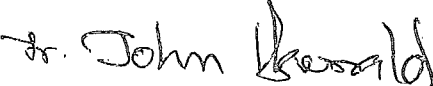
Sincerely yours in Christ,


Rev. Kevin Richter
Pastor


Rev. Shinoj Jose
Parochial Vicar


Rev. Brian Feller
Parochial Vicar


Very Rev. Mark Stoll, JCL, VF
Parochial Vicar


Rev. John Gerald
Parochial Vicar