



NWMCP Strategic Planning Update July 2024

One of the items that I have been working on is to reformulate a Strategic Planning Group to oversee strategic planning issues for the Northwest Milwaukee Catholic Parishes. We were able to coordinate our calendars for our first meeting to take place on June 25, 2024.

The members are: Fr. Greg Greiten, Michael Laird, Bill Zirbes, Jim Brown, John Buckley, Judy Dollhausen, Mike Tietz, George Quisno, and Shawn Govern. They are a group made up of the trustees of the parishes primarily, but also some individuals who have had experience and history with the original Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

The first meeting was a great commitment to work together to face the incredible challenges that are before us. As I said in a recent homily, it is not easy to cross over to the other side sometimes. When we do, turbulent waters may kick up and there can be all kinds of chaos. However, realizing the challenges that are before us, I have all the confidence that these members will be fine captains of the ship through these turbulent waters, knowing that Christ is with us in the boat!

These are some of the initial agreements and steps forward that we are going to take:

- (1) We understand the seriousness of this moment in our history.
- (2) From initial financial projections from our recent meeting, the future may be challenging financially. We realize that much more needs to be looked into and studied; however, these initial assessments remind us that we must continue moving forward.
- (3) We are unanimous in moving forward with the Concord Group to provide a Facility Condition Assessment and Feasibility Study for the Northwest Milwaukee Catholic Parishes. This is a professional group located by members of the Facilities & Finance Workgroup, who have the experience needed to help us achieve an objective analysis of the three parish sites.
- (4) We would like to see and compile analyses from the staff (already completed), the Facilities & Finance Workgroup (in process), and the Finance Councils of each parish (at their next meeting). We are asking the Finance Councils to give their feedback based on their own parish community only.
- (5) PARISH LIFE CENTER / COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER: As the Pastoral Council offered its support conceptually for this project, the Strategic Planning Group also sees the potential for such a project. We further recognize that more information is going to be needed for an overall facility budget.
- (6) TOWN HALL MEETINGS & SURVEY OF PARISHIONERS: As more information is compiled, we will meet with parishioners at another town hall meeting to present the challenges that are before us. It was also suggested to develop an instrument/survey to listen to the parishioners and allow them to share their feedback.

This is a summary of our first meeting and the next steps forward.

Blessings,

Fr. Greg