



Rural Family 'K' Planning Update

March 1, 2023

To our parish families:

I am writing to you about the future of our parish communities and apostolates. This plan will bring change to each of our faith communities. It is not 'business as usual.' Please take the time to read this communication for our family of parishes.

The Family Pastoral Planning Team finalized the proposal for Rural Family K and submitted it to Archbishop Lucas. The plan has been tentatively approved with the need for additional and ongoing discussion with the Pastoral Planning Office.

The Archdiocese is focused on achieving a strong co-responsibility for mission between priests and parishioners as well as a reduction in administrative complexity. Our plan has us pursuing canonical and structural changes to our corporations and parish structures. The Journey of Faith process has allocated two priests (a Pastor and an Associate Pastor) to serve this family of parishes. There will be three large projects within our plan: two canonical mergers of parishes and the merging of Pope John and St. Boniface Schools into a single school.

When Fr. Niels completes his six-year term as pastor of Neligh and Tilden in July 2024, it is envisioned that he will take a different pastoral assignment in the Archdiocese and our family will be served by two priests going forward.

*Canonical Merger of three parishes on Highway 14:

St. Boniface (Elgin), St. Bonaventure (Raeville), and St. John the Baptist (Petersburg)

*Canonical Merger of five parishes on Highway 275:

St. Peter de Alcantara (Ewing), St. John the Baptist (Deloit), St. Theresa (Clearwater), St. Francis (Neligh), and Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Tilden)

The Highway 14 Merger will consist of three church campuses and the Highway 275 merger will consist of five church campuses. The church campuses within each merger were considered similar in size and complexity.

Each resulting canonical parish will have its own Finance Committee and Parish Council. The Finance Committees and Parish Councils will be made up of members from each church campus within their merged parish.

*Merger of the two schools housed within the same building:

St. Boniface Grade School (PreK-6th) is currently an apostolate of St. Boniface Parish. The plan is for services provided by St. Boniface School to be transferred to Pope John Central Catholic for the 2024-2025 school year.

Pope John XXIII Central Catholic (7th-12th) is a standalone corporation. The Archdiocese of Omaha established the support net for the school to include six parish entities (oftentimes referred to as 'members' of the Pope John Corporation). The six parishes are St. Boniface in Elgin, St. Bonaventure in Raeville, St. John the Baptist in Petersburg, St. Theresa Church in Clearwater, St. John the Baptist in Deloit, and St. Francis Church in Neligh.

The plan is for Pope John XXIII Central Catholic to expand its educational services to include grades PreK-6th. This means that the adding of the new grades under their existing accreditation of PJCC with the Nebraska Department of Education.

The support net for the merged schools will come from the two merged parishes (all eight churches) within our family of parishes.

Proposed Weekend Mass Schedule (Used during a period of transition):

Saturday:	5:30 PM	Every Weekend	Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Tilden)
	5:30 PM	1 st /3 rd /5 th Weekend	St. John the Baptist Deloit
	5:30 PM	2 nd /4 th Weekend	St. Peter de Alcantara Ewing
Sunday:	8:00 AM	Every Weekend	St. Theresa Clearwater
	8:00 AM	1 st /3 rd /5 th Weekend	St. Bonaventure Raeville
	8:00 AM	2 nd /4 th Weekend	St. John the Baptist Petersburg
Sunday:	10:00 AM	Every Weekend	St. Francis Neligh
	10:00 AM	Every Weekend	St. Boniface Elgin

Holy Day and Ash Wednesday masses to be determined.

Proposed Weekday Mass Schedule:

Tuesday: 8:30 AM St. John the Baptist Petersburg (Concelebrated/Staff Meeting day)
Wednesday-Friday: 8:15 AM St. Boniface Elgin (Provides School Presence)
8:30 AM St. Francis Neligh (Provides proximity for hospital, nursing home, and assisted living ministry)

Our family of parishes will have a central office in Petersburg and a satellite office in Neligh with limited hours offered. The Neligh office will also be used as meeting space, as needed.

This letter is meant to communicate the direction that we are moving, with some of the first questions that may come to people's minds. Each of these projects will have a lot of details to figure out. We have to make these changes in response to our changing world. These projects are meant to provide a future for our faith communities and our schools.

The most important piece of our plan is to create an environment where our primary work and focus is making all our parishes missional.

Let us pray for each other as we begin this new journey of faith.

Sincerely,



Rev. John M Norman
Convener of Rural Family 'K'