

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT: Cluster 350

All Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Madison have been asked to work in “clusters” during a long-term planning process relating to the expected future shortage of priests in our diocese and the re-distribution of the numbers of Catholics in the diocese. The first phase of the process, to determine the clusters and their goals, was called “Guided by the Spirit”. That phase was completed in the fall of 2008. The second, current, phase has been named “Trusting in the Spirit” by Bishop Morlino. This phase is responsible for the planning and implementation of diocesan and cluster goals, which are collaborated on and presented to the diocese for approval.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is clustered with three other parishes: Holy Family of LaValle; St. Boniface of Lime Ridge, and St. Patrick of Loreto. In our cluster, these three linked

parishes are partnered with Sacred Heart. we are operating from a mission statement, a statement of values, and a vision statement, all of which direct us in our work. These are meant to help identify the ways in which the four parishes can work together toward their common goals and the goals of the diocese for our group.

Parish implementation teams consist of five members from each parish in the cluster: the Pastor, a Pastoral Council member, a parish staff member and parishioners at large. Our current team members are Father Tom, Maureen Krueger, Tracy Gruber, Jim Hofrichter, and Mary Williams.

Members of the cluster implementation team have finalized the cluster Mission and Value Statements, which are as follows:

MISSION STATEMENT: We the people of St. Boniface, Holy Family, St. Patrick and Sacred Heart, celebrating our uniqueness, are called by God in Baptism and guided by the Holy Spirit to reach out in witness to the love and life of Jesus Christ. We come together in faith to build a community based on prayer, worship and compassionate outreach.

VALUES STATEMENT As a Cluster we wish to:

- Continue to be an active, viable, prayerful, sacramental faith community.
- Grow in faithfulness to our Catholic traditions by full participation in Eucharistic celebrations, sacraments and prayer.
- Live the Gospel message by being an accepting, welcoming, serving and evangelizing community.
- Respect and value all creation.
- Use our time, talents, and treasures to provide quality human, financial and facility resources to sustain and serve our parishes’ faith community.
- Support lifelong Catholic education and faith formation.
- Encourage and support one another answering God’s call to live our chosen vocations.

VISION STATEMENT:

- The cluster of St. Boniface, Holy Family, St. Patrick and Sacred Heart are working together to develop a more vibrant, faith-filled Catholic community that is growing in a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and is guided by the Holy Spirit. We are nourished by the power of the Eucharist and the beauty of the liturgy to have a deepening understanding and active practice of our faith.
- We are accepting and welcoming of all. We evangelize through our actions and by living out our faith daily.
- We strongly support lifelong Catholic education. Our Catholic schools are financially strong and enrollment is increasing. Our Religious Education program prepares our children well so they value and respect their Catholic Faith and want to be a witness to that heritage. Our growing combined Youth program is very active and is a great witness to living out the Gospel message. Senior citizens, widows and those divorced are eagerly taking advantage of the many educational experiences offered by our combined parish program.
- Each parishioner is responsive to our Lord's call to vocations. Many men and women have answered His call. The laity in our parishes is living out their vocation with great enthusiasm and is a great witness to all the world.
- Our parishes are constantly reaching out with great charity to meet the growing needs of social justice, peace and compassion. The cluster is working to continually support sister parishes in other parts of the world in addition to local outreach to those in need. We continue building relationships and partnerships with other non-Catholic congregations in the interest of promoting peaceful dialogue and building the kingdom of God on earth for all. We recognize the dignity and value of every human being.
- Our parishes are abundantly blessed with generous parishioners sharing their time, treasure and talents. We have a strong working partnership resulting in program coordination and shared ministries in liturgy, sacramental preparation, music, pastoral outreach to the sick and homebound, youth ministry, and social justice.