



OUR FAITH, OUR FUTURE

In the July edition of FAITH Grand Rapids, Bishop Hurley announced that beginning this fall the diocese is embarking on a planning process called “Our Faith, Our Future: A Plan for the Diocese of Grand Rapids.” He explained that during the next 2-3 years, listening sessions, consultations and discussions will take place with lay leadership, pastors and school principals at the deanery and the diocesan levels, and, on occasion, at the local level.

On August 13, Bishop Hurley met with the priests of the diocese to familiarize them with the planning process and to gather their input.

Planning sessions for leadership groups in the Big Rapids, Northwest Lakeshore and Grand Haven deaneries are scheduled to begin in September and October. Some of the topics they will discuss include:

- demographic trends in the parish and community
- programs that make a Catholic school viable, present strengths and weaknesses
- current parish formation and evangelization programs, strengths and weaknesses
- parish facility needs
- parish financial challenges
- fewer priests and greater demands, workable model to address pastoral needs
- a vision for the parish and region for the next 5 – 10 years
- goals and strategies for the plan that are broader than an individual parish

Bishop emphasizes that we are not entering the “Our Faith, Our Future” planning process with any predisposed plan, rather, together, we seek to create a new energy and vision that will enable us to look to the future with hope and confidence with a collective commitment to build a more vibrant church.

“Our Faith, Our Future” updates will be provided monthly in FAITH Grand Rapids and on the diocesan Web site www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org.