

Summary of Proposals **Midland Catholic Cluster Project**

The enclosed pages contain a summary of the proposals developed by the three task forces. Please note that these are only summaries. The complete details for each proposal (including background and positive and negative implications) are included in a separate packet at your table.

The proposal summaries in this packet are organized as follows:

Proposals 1-3: Liturgy and Sacramental Ministry

Proposals 4- 8: Vocations and Priest Shortage

Proposals 9-16: Shared Resources

Proposals 17-21: Added Proposals from the cluster meeting

Liturgy and Sacramental Ministry

Proposal 1: Daily Opportunities for Worship

Proposal

The task force proposes to develop and implement a fixed schedule for worship opportunities throughout the week.

Sample Schedule: Following is a sample weekday worship schedule for the 3 parishes.

	Assumption	Blessed Sacrament	St. Brigid
Monday	8:30a Scripture & Communion		6:45a Scripture & Communion
Tuesday	8:30a Scripture & Communion	8:30a Mass 6:30p Our Mother of Perpetual Help	6:45a Scripture & Communion
Wednesday	8:30a Mass	10:00a Mass at Nursing Home 7:00p Evening Prayer	6:45a Scripture & Communion
Thursday	8:30a Scripture & Communion	8:30a Mass	6:45a Scripture & Communion 12:05p Mass
Friday	8:30a Mass		8:30a Mass

Proposal 2: Two Weekend Masses per Parish

Proposal

Provide a Saturday and Sunday Mass at each parish, staggering the start times of each Mass.

	Assumption	Blessed Sacrament	St. Brigid
Saturday	5:30	5:00	
Sunday	11:00	8:30	9:00
			11:30
Seating	800	1000	650
Church Total	1600	2000	1300
City Total	4900		

Proposal 3: Mass Schedule Based on Church Size

Proposal

Design a Mass schedule that provides as the minimum the following considerations with locations to be based on seating capacity:

- At least one Mass on Saturday for the city
- At least one Sunday Mass at each parish
- Staggered Mass times for Sunday to maximize scheduling flexibility

	Assumption	Blessed Sacrament	St. Brigid
Saturday		5:00	
Sunday		8:30	
	9:00		
		11:00	
			11:30
			5:30
Seating	800	1000	650
Church Total	800	3000	1300
City Total	5100		

Vocations/Priest Shortage

Proposal 4: Support Bishop Carlson's Diocesan Vocation Initiative

Proposal text: Create a task force to identify how the three Midland can best support Bishop Carlson's Diocesan Vocation Initiative. The Bishop's initiative addresses a number of topics mentioned in the Fall Gatherings and listening sessions. These include:

- Determine why seminarians leave the seminary.
- Determine how to make the role of Priest (deacon) more desirable.
- Research the ebb and flow of the priesthood in the past or in other geographies to see if there are solutions available to us.
- Work together with the bishop to involve him in our vocation efforts
- Increase prayer, adoration and other spiritual practices directed toward the call to priestly vocations.
- Sponsor (financially and spiritually) men in priestly vocations.
- Sponsor a gathering on some frequency for priests to share with men (all ages) in the parish/vicariate their own experiences in discernment and now that they are priests share the good, the bad and the ugly. Could really be done with all youth (and furthermore with all roles in the parish).
- Address how to discern a calling in life throughout life, not just with youth.
These callings include:
 - Married life
 - Being a parent
 - Being a lay minister
 - Being a consecrated religious
 - Being a deacon
 - Being a priest
- Remain open to the Holy Spirit in leading us forward through this challenge

Proposal 5: Educate parishioners about the realities of priestly life

Proposal text: Educate parishioners on the "real life" of a priest so we can understand how to support our current priests and uplift our esteem for the role.

- Pastoral demands
- Work schedule
- Diocesan duties
- Family life/commitments
- Continuing Education and personal development
- Opportunities to develop community and fellowship with other priests.
- Personal likes and dislikes

Proposal 6: Educate parishioners in their role of active laity

Proposal text: Educate parishioners in their role of active laity. Clearly identify (de-mystify) roles which can be done by the laity. These include:

- Lay ministers
- Spiritual Directors
- Participation in a parish committee
- Establish a mentoring mentality in the parish.

Proposal 7: Assist parishioners in discerning their call to pastoral ministry

Proposal text: Provide opportunities for those interested in pastoral ministry to discern their call. Some possibilities for this include:

- Retreats
- Days of reflection
- Opportunities to dialogue with those knowledgeable about the field of pastoral ministry

Proposal 8: Develop an internship program at the three Midland parishes for students in pastoral ministry

Proposal text: Our three parishes would work together to sponsor internships for students in pastoral ministry from nearby schools (for example, Assumption and Mary Grove). We would also explore the possibility of providing a monetary stipend to those who participate in the internship program.

Shared Resources

Proposal 9: Consolidate Administrative Organizations

Proposal text: Consolidate all administrative, maintenance and accounting activities into one shared organization for all three parishes. This proposal relates solely to the consolidation of existing Administrative positions and activities and does not speak to the consolidation or retention of the parish structure.

Proposal 10: Maintain existing parish structures

Proposal text: Maintain all three current parish building structures as they currently are. This proposal is simply a definition of the parish structure status quo in Midland today.

Proposal 11: Build a single large parish in Midland

Proposal text: Create a task force to study the option of creating a completely new structure - a single large parish for Catholics in Midland. The task force would examine all issues related to the creation of a single large parish, including selling off old, new name, defined schools and Catholic services on one site. The task force members will deliver their report to leadership of the three parishes.

Proposal 12: Create one NEW Parish – retain the current buildings and structures as “campuses” of the new parish.

Proposal text: Create a task force to study the option of creating a new parish but retain the buildings etc as campuses within the parish. The task force will examine all issues related to the creation of this new entity. The task force members will deliver their report to leadership of the three parishes.

Proposal 13: Consolidate Outreach Ministries in the three parishes

Proposal text: Consolidate the structure, facilitation and delivery of outreach ministries in the three parishes. This includes social service ministries such as outreach to the poor and needy.

Proposal 14: Social events

Proposal text: There will be at least one tri parish social event each year. Some examples include a dinner, dance, picnic, etc

Proposal 15: Communication to those outside the parishes

Proposal text: Create a task force to study effective ways to communicate with those outside the three Midland parishes. This includes both inactive Catholics as well as non-Catholics. The task force would examine the effectiveness of current methods of communication and explore new means of “marketing” our three parishes to the larger Midland community. The task force members will deliver their report to leadership of the three parishes.

Proposal 16: Managing the Change Process in the Midland Catholic Community

Proposal text:

Create a task force to monitor the changes implemented as a result of the Midland Catholic Cluster project and offer suggestions as to the effective use of the insights of “Human Change Management.” In particular, the task force would be mindful of issues relating to:

- Parish identity.
- Impacts on the parishes and the community.
- Standing of the parishes in the external community

Proposal 17: Sunday Evening Mass

Proposal text:

Initiate a Sunday evening Mass, to be held at one of the three parishes in Midland

Proposal 18: Proposed time for Sunday Evening Mass – Option one

Proposal text:

The time for the Sunday evening Mass would be between 5-6pm

Proposal 19: Proposed time for Sunday Evening Mass – Option two

Proposal text:

The time for the Sunday evening Mass would be between 7-8pm

Proposal 20: Proposed time for Weekday Mass – Option one

Proposal text:

Offer a weekday mass in the morning at a time early enough that people who work full-time can attend it and still get to work on-time.

Proposal 21: Proposed time for Weekday Mass – Option two

Proposal text:

Offer a weekday mass in the early evening, at a time when those who work during the day would be able to attend it after their work.