



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Saint Cloud

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March 4, 2020

Dear pastor(s) and ACC chair,

Thank you for putting together a plan for your Area Catholic Community. The Diocesan Planning Council and I have reviewed it. We recognize the strengths in the *All Called to Christ* Area Catholic Community plan as:

- Strong focus on evangelization
- The "preamble" is interesting
- Goals and action plans (though not listed as such) are clear and well-defined

and I approve of this plan with the following caveat:

- Is installation of media screens appropriate for all spaces?

After reading all of the plans, we have a few general observations and would like to add these expectations for all Area Catholic Communities:

- Have a joint bulletin by June 30, 2020
- Have a Mass schedule that staggers Mass times by June 30, 2020
- Have a joint pastoral council by June 30, 2021
- Communicate the plan to the broader Area Catholic Community
- Include representation on the planning council from a diverse group of people especially the Hispanic community and young adults
- Include at least one goal that is externally focused (reaching out to inactive parishioners, collaborating with other faith traditions in your area, etc.)
- Work together as one Area Catholic Community
- Include realistic timelines

I encourage you to now move forward with the implementation of your goals. All ACC plans are expected to be published on the diocesan planning website by May 1, 2020. Any revision of your plan should be sent to the planning office by April 30, 2020. If a revision is not received, the plan will be posted as it currently stands.

In the next couple of months, teams of two from our diocesan staff will visit ACC planning councils to talk more in depth about your plan and how the diocesan offices may be of assistance, as well as, how a regional ministry gathering in your area might be helpful in implementing your goals.

Please contact Brenda Kresky in the planning office with any concerns or questions. Thank you for your attention to these recommendations and for all your work and efforts in getting the plans together.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Donald J. Kettler
+Donald J. Kettler
Bishop of Saint Cloud