



## SOUTHEAST DEANERY

### *Shaping Our Future Together* **PLAN**

An important element of the Southeast Deanery's proposal is the subdividing of the Southeast Deanery into smaller geographical units, called coalitions. These coalitions are as follows:

<i>Hermann</i>	<i>Westphalia</i>	<i>Freeburg-Vienna</i>	<i>Cuba</i>	<i>St. Robert</i>	<i>Rolla</i>
Rhineland	Linn	Rich Fountain	Bourbon	Dixon	St. James
Morrison	Loose Creek	Koeltztown	Steelville	Crocker	Rosati
Chamois	Folk	Argyle		Richland	
Owensville	Frankenstein	Brinktown			
Belle	Bonnots Mill				

Included in this proposal, as an attachment, are the summary, progress reports or updates for each coalition of parishes within a given coalition. These reports provide a more local understanding of the process, the discernment and prayer that went into this process, and the goals and priorities for a given group of parishes within each coalition.

The following overall themes for the Southeast Deanery are grouped based on the Seven Essential Values.

Short-term plans will be implemented in 1-2 years. Mid-term and long-term plans (in italics) will be evaluated and implementation dates will be determined later (all short-term plans will be continued within the mid- and long-term).

### **1. Sacraments are Accessible and Celebrated Well**

The Southeast Deanery will host three regional sessions at various locations across the deanery for the formation and training of liturgical ministers. Examples include lectors, musicians, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, etc. These sessions will aim at building up the laity in their ability, understanding and motivation to serve their fellow parishioners at parish Masses. (short-term)

Parishes within the Southeast Deanery will strive to create spiritually-enriching environments within the nave/church body before Masses. This may include subdued lighting, prayer materials available, group recitation of the rosary, and reverent background music. The reverence for the Holy Mass will be communicated in a loving way. (short-term)

*The Southeast Deanery will assess cultural and religious preferences of the parishioners within our deanery to offer optimum Mass opportunities and Catholic experiences for the faithful (examples include Traditional Latin Mass, minority language, worship nights, etc.). (mid-term)*

*The Southeast Deanery will develop an assessment for thriving parishes that are not solely dependent on numbers, but rather on enrichment. (long-term)*

## **2. Hospitality**

Each parish in the Southeast Deanery will develop an individual and specific plan for welcoming and sustainable inclusion of new parishioners into the parish family. (short-term)

*Deanery-wide surveys will be developed and implemented to gather information aimed at identifying why people are not active Catholics/parishioners and how a more welcoming parish atmosphere can be created. (mid-term)*

*The Southeast Deanery will develop a plan for encouraging parishes to strive to be good, true and beautiful so that others are drawn to our parish families as Christ-like centers of mercy and charity, in which the presence of God is a felt experience. (mid-term)*

## **3. Clergy Well-being**

With diocesan support and initiative:

- Coalition Councils will be encouraged to explore the unique role of laity and clergy in order to promote and highlight the role of each, with an emphasis on clergy well-being.
- Pastors of the Southeast Deanery will be encouraged to cooperate with their local Coalition Councils and other parish functions and teams to transfer responsibilities appropriately to deacons, lay volunteers, and hired staff to maintain their well-being and give them ample time to serve their most sacred duties.

## **4. Canon Law and Current Church Teaching**

All Southeast Deanery plans and projects will be subject to approval by the appropriate hierarchy.

## **5. Faith Formation**

Programs will be developed for young families to be given the support needed for their spiritual and holistic well-being and development. (short-term)

*Parishes without Catholic schools are encouraged to establish a plan with area parishes with Catholic schools regarding a plan or process for access and participation, if one is not in place. (mid-term)*

*Deanery-wide pilgrimages will be organized within the Southeast Deanery, capitalizing on the holy grounds within our deanery (the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Starkenburg, for example.) Coordination of these events will draw from each parish's leadership for promotion and organization. (mid-term)*

*Deanery-wide surveys will be developed and implemented to allow for personal reflection/assessment. (mid-term)*

## **6. Human and Financial Resources**

The Southeast Deanery will encourage area parishes to discern their interest and ability to hire staff persons to function as business managers, and/or facility/maintenance managers. Initial discussion will be among deanery priests to see if and how this might be of assistance to area pastors/priests and parishes, and if there is interest or practicality in sharing a staff person between one or more parishes. Broader discussion within deanery parishes is encouraged. A report regarding what was discerned and identified will be compiled by June 2024. (short-term)

*The Southeast Deanery will consider a deanery standardized financial reporting format. This standardized format for a reporting structure to parishioners in the bulletin, etc. may help improve communication and provide transparency. (mid-term)*

## **7. Fulfillment of the Mission**

### **Mercy/charity**

*The training of liturgical ministers (see #1 above) will include education and promotion of outreach opportunities to serve those in the margins in our areas. Examples include worship music, Holy Communion, and companionship to hospitals, nursing homes, shut-ins, jails, prisons, etc. (mid-term)*

### **Stewardship**

The Southeast Deanery will explore and discern further ways of promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life. Additionally, promoting the joy of the Gospel and evangelical service, emphasizing and highlighting invitation, information and discernment, as well as the promotion of marriage and family. (short-term)

*The Southeast Deanery will host town halls, seminars and presentations regionally to promote the true spirit of stewardship, both collectively and as individuals. (mid-term)*

### **Co-responsibility**

The Southeast Deanery will establish Coalition Councils by June 2024. Each Coalition Council will consist of at least one member from each parish within the coalition, ideally including a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. Coalition Councils will meet at least four times per year. Coalition Councils will share parish goals and assess and address present and future needs of the coalition and its parishes. (short-term)

The laity within the Southeast Deanery will be encouraged to accept responsibility for the thriving atmospheres of local parishes, as well as an active allegiance to their own and others' salvation. Parishioners will actively ask others to join activities, invite others to Mass, and encourage participation in parish councils and involvement. (short-term)

## **Women's ministry**

The Southeast Deanery will host a Women's Day of Reflection by June 2024. Coordination of this event will be through collaboration with the diocesan Coordinator of Women's Ministry as well as draw from each parish's leadership for promotion and organization. (June 2024) (short-term)

In addition to Women's Ministry, the Southeast Deanery will create opportunities for men and youth groups.

The Southeast Deanery will host a Men's Day of Reflection by June 2024. Coordination of this event will draw from diocesan resources as well as each parish's leadership for promotion and organization. (June 2024) (short-term)

*The Southeast Deanery will host a retreat for youth. Coordination of this event will draw from diocesan resources as well as each parish's leadership for promotion and organization. (mid-term)*

