

A Letter from the Archbishop Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Process

October 26, 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know by now, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is engaged in a focused process to evaluate our parochial resources with a view towards building on our strengths rather than duplicating our efforts.

I mentioned in my earlier letter, addressed to this local Church, that the primary principles guiding this process are intended to guarantee: that full sacramental ministry will be available to every Catholic in the Archdiocese; that all areas of the Archdiocese will have sufficient competent pastoral leaders; that special concern will be given to the needs of the poor, marginalized, and immigrant; and that consideration regarding Catholic schools will be included in the planning process.

I am grateful to the many people who have already participated in the planning process. Our pastors began meeting last spring to address the issues facing the Archdiocese in each deanery. This summer, some 500 trustees, parish and finance council members and other parish leaders attended a series of planning meetings. Additionally, more than 700 parish employees and ministry group members as well as nearly 1,500 parishioners have attended regional meetings. The input from these meetings will be considered by the members of the Strategic Task Force as they formulate recommendations to be submitted to me in July of next year.

Although the initial public meetings of the planning process have now passed, you may still offer your insights, if you have not already done so. I encourage you to make your thoughts known. You may do so on a dedicated voicemail line, via the internet or by writing a letter. Contact information is included in this bulletin insert.

I again assure you that there are no preconceived ideas as to how this Archdiocesan Planning Process will play itself out. I invite you to take part in this important undertaking which is aimed at planning for the future of our local Church. Please share your thoughts with us.

In addition, I ask you to join me in prayer for the success of this process.

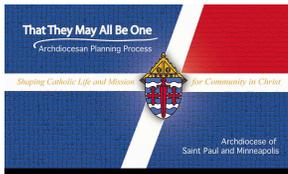
With every good wish, I remain,

Cordially yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Please see the reverse side for the timeline and for contact information regarding the planning process...

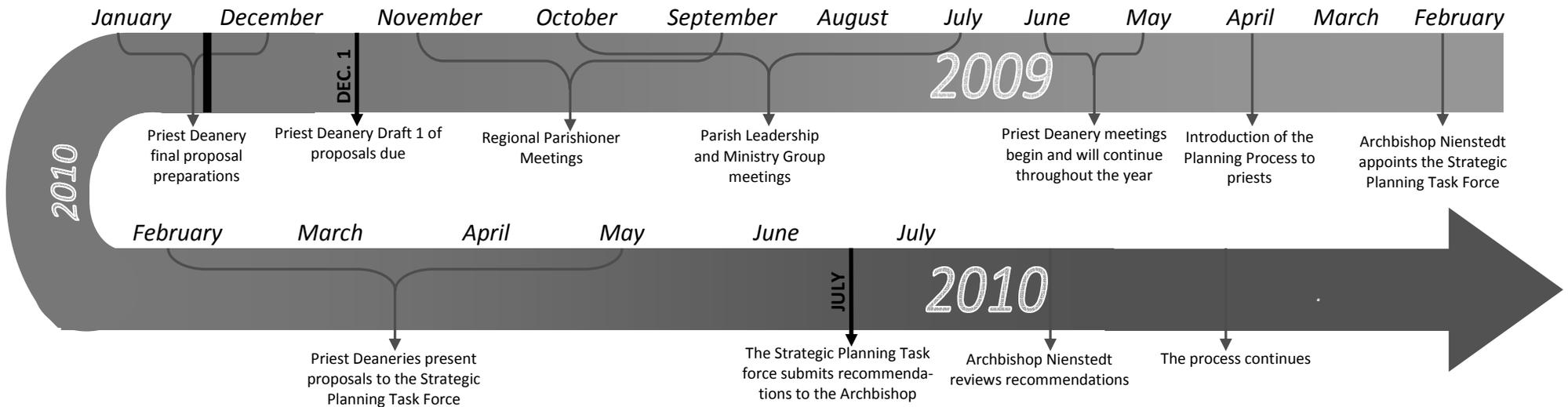
October, 2009—Volume VI



Planning Process Continuing Timeline

Archdiocesan Strategic Planning Process

The Archdiocesan Planning Process is well underway as members of the Strategic Planning Task Force continue to prayerfully consider input from priests, parish leaders, parishioners and others regarding future planning for the Archdiocese. The Strategic Planning Task Force will make its recommendations to the Archbishop next summer. Below is a simplified timeline of the process.



* Thank you for your continuing participation in the planning process! Please note that if you have attended a Regional Parishioner meeting, submitted a voicemail, website or letter response to the process, your input will be provided to the Strategic Planning Task Force by Dec. 1, 2009.

Contact Information

Phone: 651.291.4435

Website: www.archspm.org/planningprocess/contact.html

Address: Archdiocesan Planning Process, 328 West Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102