



Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls
Office of the Bishop

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June 27, 2024
Thursday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

Reverend Shaun Haggerty
Ave Maria Pastorate
309 2nd Ave SE
Watertown, SD 57201

Dear Father Haggerty,

Thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and engagement in Set Ablaze. May God bless you and those who participated in your Set Ablaze pastorate pastoral planning! I appreciate how your 2024 Pastoral Planning Proposal Outline details from your perspective: "Where We Are; Where We Want to Go; Our Roadmap for Getting There; and How We Will Know We are Succeeding." Recognizing good pastoral planning requires a lot of prayer and hard work, please know of my gratitude for your labors of love for the souls in your pastorate, the diocese and others.

I am grateful for the ways your pastorate plan strives to accomplish the four aims of Set Ablaze. It will be important to regularly remind your staff, clergy, lay leaders and parishioners of these four aims:

- To prioritize and align our resources, gifts and talents, clergy, and energy towards a focused, sustained and intentional effort to build a culture of *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love*.
- To maximize the complementarity of Priestly gifts to best advance our diocesan vision
- To scale resources so that each pastorate may be appropriately staffed and equipped for this effort
- To promote the proper Co-Responsibility of the Lay Faithful in the Church's mission.

You did an excellent job on your 2024 pastoral planning proposal! I appreciate your attention to detail, collaborative and consultative inquiries, analysis of your current reality and identification of further analysis and consultation that will be needed to address needs within your pastorate. You are doing a really great job, Fr. Haggerty, as well as those who are assisting you!

I am inspired by your desire to strengthen sacramental based catechesis in your homilies, and ongoing formation of all ages. I want to thank and honor you for focusing on the spiritual lives of those entrusted to your care, strengthening marriages and family life, vocations, and Catholic education among others.

I am impressed by the number and types of resources you identified to help form your parishioners, staff and clergy! I note you are very committed to the formation and shared priestly life with your Parochial Vicars. I am very appreciative of your strong and regular commitment to sharing prayer, fraternity and ministry!

After your analytical and consultative processes have been completed, I look forward to further insights and recommendations regarding the topics you identified such as renaming your school, addressing significant repairs, possible relocation, expansion of your school and other facility needs you discern are important to address. I am intrigued by your exploration of the possibility of a Newman Center at LATC. When you discern the most opportune time to discuss, I look forward to learning more.

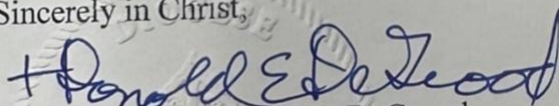
I am pleased to inform you that I approve of your 2024 Pastoral Planning Proposal, aspirational goals and first year efforts. Congratulations! It is my confidence in God, you and those who actively engaged in prayer, discernment and pastoral planning that inspired me to grant my approval. Know of my prayers and best wishes for great spiritual flourishing in your pastorate.

As you implement your 2024 aspirational goals, I look forward to learning how the four aims of Set Ablaze are implemented in your pastorate. This is why good measurements of success, flexibility to adjust as you go through your first year, annual review of goals and setting the following year's goals are really important. Your goal measurements allow for tangible data to offer objective encouragement for you, your clergy, staff, lay leaders, and parishioners. It also is helpful to learn what has worked well, what needs to be adjusted or changed so God can continue to do great things through all of you. Lastly, it is a great way for all of us to be reminded of God's faithfulness, blessings and desires to provide for us.

I look forward to meeting with you to hear how you are doing, and learn how I or others might best serve you, your clergy, leadership team, staff and parishioners. If there is anything you would like to talk about during our meeting, please know I am happy to do that. Melinda will reach out to you soon to schedule a time for us to meet.

As you put into motion your first-year aspirational goals, my hope and prayer is that God will stir into flame a deep desire for holiness of souls in your pastorate as you strive to implement the goals of Set Ablaze. Know of my prayers and best wishes for great spiritual flourishing in your pastorate now and into the future.

Sincerely in Christ,


Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood
Bishop of Sioux Falls