

DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
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May 30, 1984

Sault Religious Education Task Force
c/o Sr. Marietta Brummel, I.B.V.M.
Sault Area Religious Education and Service Program
377 Maple Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Dear Task Force Members:

I have reflected over your Task Force self-study and recommendation, the recommendations from the areas' pastoral leadership, and the recommendation submitted to me by the Diocesan Board of Education. I have also read and studied all other materials submitted to me with regards your Task Force's objective.

I have decided to concur with the recommendation of these three groups. I, therefore, dissolve your Sault Area Religious Education and Service Program at the end of this 1983-1984 academic year. I have also approved the additional recommendations submitted to me by the Diocesan Board of Education. They are as follows:

1. Each parish must establish a Religious Education board or commission to govern their Religious Education program. This board/commission must immediately establish a goal statement for the Religious Education program, design a comprehensive plan to accomplish this goal, and draft a program budget.
2. Parish Religious Education Boards/Commissions and programs are encouraged to work together on specific catechetical programs (i.e. marriage preparation, scripture study, etc.) and to share resources and materials.
3. Each parish will conduct an intensive program self-evaluation within three years to be studied by the Department of Catholic Education so as to assist in providing quality Catholic Religious Education in the Sault area.
4. St. Isaac Jogues and Bay Mills should pursue suggestions offered regarding obtaining funding from other sources and should investigate religious orders that might consider assisting them because of their ethnic associations.
5. A fair and equitable method of dividing and sharing those materials that are presently jointly owned must be developed.
6. Leadership people in the area are encouraged to continue their inter-parish prayer, cooperation, and communication.
7. The Department of Catholic Education will be available to assist the parishes in their planning.

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I ask you to implement these additional recommendations as soon as possible.

I give permission to close your current program, not because of any failure in your area program, but rather since you have determined that parish-centered programs will better serve the catechetical needs of your area. As you stated in your study a parish-centered program:

1. focuses on the adult faith community who will take responsibility for sharing their faith with other adults, youth, and children;
2. involves parents and families in the religious education of their children;
3. integrates the religious education programs into the total life of the parish;
4. strengthens parish identity and unity, and
5. develops lay leadership through the development of a parish catechetical ministry.

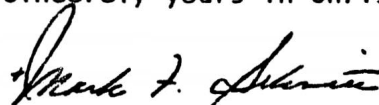
My decision to discontinue your existing program should be seen as a positive decision, a sign of the parish community's readiness to accept the responsibility for sharing their faith, and a challenge to you to meet the changing needs of a growing Church.

I would also like to ask that the parishes in your area take all steps possible to offer suitable ministry opportunities to all those currently involved in your area program. I recommend especially your sensitivity in responding to the needs, employment, housing, etc. of the Sisters of Loretto. Your area has been blessed for many years by their generous and untiring service.

I would like to personally thank the members of the Task Force for all their work, reflection, and prayer that you as individuals and as a group put into your study. Your study demonstrates the sensitivity and professionalism of your group.

My prayers will accompany you in your work of establishing a new model for Religious Education in your area.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Mark F. Schmitt
Bishop of Marquette

cc: Msgr. Oliver J. O'Callaghan
Rev. Theodore J. Brodeur
Rev. Bernard D. Haas, S.J.
Rev. C. Michael Rhoades
Rev. Joseph C. Lawless, S.J.
Mr. Robert LaJoice
Sisters of Loretto
Diocesan Board of Education