

PARISH CLASSIFICATIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF BISMARCK (11/08)

CATHEDRAL (OR CAPITULAR CHURCH) (c. 510)

- Is the principal church representing the see of the Bishop of Bismarck.
- Is also to take on the function of a parish, in which case a pastor is assigned.
- As a parish, has its own active finance council, pastoral council, and corporate board

PARISH (OR PAROCHIAL CHURCH) (cc. 515, 510, 518)

- Collaborates with nearby parishes, churches, and oratories
- In the stable care of a pastor or the temporary care of a parochial administrator or presbyteral supervisor
- The pastor is in residence
- Has its own active finance council and corporate board
- Has its own active pastoral council or membership on the cluster pastoral council

CHURCH (cc. 1214-1222)

- Pastoral leadership is less than full time in the amount of service and financial compensation, the pastor, parochial administrator, or presbyteral supervisor lives in another community
- Many of the ministerial activities take place at other parishes in the cluster
- Has its own active finance council and corporate board
- Has its own active pastoral council or membership on the cluster pastoral council

ORATORY (cc. 1223-1225)

- Status is no longer that of a parish or church. A weekly Sunday liturgy is not celebrated in the building. The people are to register in another parish or church because that is where they will primarily participate in a Sunday liturgy.
- The building remains as a place of occasional worship. It may be used for weddings and funerals, devotions, private and communal prayer, a weekday Mass, and feast days proper to the oratory. The Blessed Sacrament may be reserved, provided there is adequate security and that celebration of the Eucharist occurs there at least twice monthly, insofar as possible. Other activities and programs may be conducted and financially supported as determined by the cluster pastoral council and pastor in consultation with the diocese.
- Its own corporate board remains active.
- Sacraments of Initiation will be celebrated at the appropriate church in the cluster. The oratory is administered and managed by the designated pastor, parochial administrator, or presbyteral supervisor.

CLUSTER

- A cluster of parishes, churches, or oratories has a priest as its pastor, however the priest may live at another location and be pastor of more than one community and he may be assisted by a parish life collaborator and or other pastoral leaders.
- Each parish and church is to have its own corporate board, a finance council; each may have a separate pastoral council or a joint pastoral council with other parishes and oratories
- All members of the cluster are committed to a long term relationship to plan and provide pastoral care for these communities. They share the cost of area personnel, ministries and pastoral programs by a proportionate assessment.
- In forming this relationship each parish, church, or oratory has its own parish identity, canonical status, and financial accountability.

CLOSED

- Is suppressed as a parish, church, or oratory for whatever reason.
- The corporate board continues and disposes of property assets and dispenses financial assets to the new parishes or churches which members join, in proportion to their numbers.
- The designated parish administers and maintains the records of the closed entity and, where applicable, the cemetery and the cemetery funds.
A use for or disposition of the building is determined in consultation with the Diocesan Building Committee and with the approval of the Bishop.