

Joint Statement from Fr. Ben and Fr. Jimmy

Dear Parishioners of Haven of Mercy Area Catholic Community,

Under the guidance and initiative of Bishop Donald Kettler and the Diocese of Saint Cloud, we are excited to come together as a six parish faith community working together for the mission of the Church. One important step in moving forward is to bring on board a director of operations that will assist the priests in the administration of the community. This director of operations will report directly to the priests and will oversee much of the day-to-day finances, human resources, facilities, staff, communications and technology. This person will also help us to look at business solutions to help streamline job descriptions and processes to help our staff and parishes to work together efficiently and effectively. It will also help free the priests to focus on spiritual things and people with celebration of the sacraments, evangelization and visiting families.

The decision to move forward with this director of operations position is the fruit of a careful discussion that began with our Haven of Mercy Area Catholic Community committee a few years ago and it was set as a goal to develop and hire this position. We have used the professional services of Lighthouse Strategic Solutions based in Fairbault, MN to help us to do an organizational assessment of the current staff and processes of our six parishes. The staff at Lighthouse are Catholics who are trained in human resources, finance, and business strategy and have worked both as previous business managers of parishes and now consult over a dozen parish communities in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul Minneapolis. We are confident they that they have offered us a professional way to move forward with hiring a director of operations. They will also be assisting us through this entire hiring process. They have made a professional presentation to ALL of the parish trustees of our six parishes and pastors and, after our presentation and discussion, ALL trustees have indicated their support of moving forward with the hiring of a director of operations as a way of moving forward with the Haven of Mercy Area Catholic Community with the understanding that follows:

This director of operations will be assisting primarily the parishes of the Little Falls Tri-Parish with its 14 employees. The director of operations will also provide professional support for the secretary in the parishes of Flensburg, Sobieski and Randall. The parishes of Flensburg, Sobieski and Randall will continue to utilize many of its current volunteers. The lion's share of financial compensation of the director of operations will also fall on the the Little Falls Tri-Parish since they will be most directly be affected.

We seek to move forward with this process of hiring the director of operations as soon as possible. A job posting will be made immediately and we will be accepting applications until mid-December. We will be doing two rounds of interviews. The first round will be before Christmas and the second round will be after the first of the year. If all moves forward as planned, we hope to offer a position by mid-January and have a start time of the first of February. We want to assure everyone that we are NOT seeking to let go any currently employees of the parishes. Also we are seeking to hire the right person for the job and not simply to fill a spot. We will adjust our timeline accordingly. We do realize that the current job market is difficult but we still think it is right to begin this process.

We ask for your prayers that we can find a person that will greatly help our faith community as a director of operations. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions by email or to catch us in the community.

Sincerely,
Fr. Ben and Fr. Jimmy