



THE ARCHDIOCESE  
OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS



January 2, 2015

*Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and  
Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

This month I will begin my 10<sup>th</sup> year as Archbishop here in northeast Kansas. The past decade has had its share of challenges, but for the most part, has been a time of abundant blessings. The local Church has made great advances for the sake of the Gospel, yet much work remains to be done. The Gospel continually calls the disciples of Jesus to an ongoing commitment in love and service for the glory of His name.

If it be God's will, and if I remain healthy, I would be pleased to be able to serve this Archdiocese for another ten years. Thus, I believe it is an opportune time to pause and reflect on what our efforts have produced and to prayerfully consider what the Lord is calling us to do in the foreseeable future. After consulting with the Presbyteral Council, I have asked the *Catholic Leadership Institute* (CLI) to facilitate a visioning process that would help us as an Archdiocese to develop a mutually shared ten-year pastoral vision that would have a unifying theme, some pastoral priorities and specific goals to achieve those priorities. The Visioning Process is made up of the following components:

**Archbishop's Envisioning Team:** It is this team of eleven individuals from various backgrounds that not only provides advice to the Archbishop, but also participates in some of the other meetings and assists in compiling the input that was received from the Focus Groups, Clergy Groups and Listening Sessions. Together with the Archbishop, this team helps to construct a ten-year, mutually shared vision consisting of pastoral priorities, along with goals to achieve those priorities.

**Focus Groups:** The members of the Focus Groups consist of those who are involved in various ministries, movements or communities within the Church. The members of the Focus Groups offer important input because of their closeness to ministry in the Church. In many ways the Focus Group members represent those on the "front lines" of pastoral ministry. The fifty, or so, members of the Focus Groups will be asked to attend one of two Focus Group meetings. The Focus Groups also include advisory bodies like the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and the Archdiocesan Finance Council. These bodies will provide input to the process at their normally scheduled meetings.

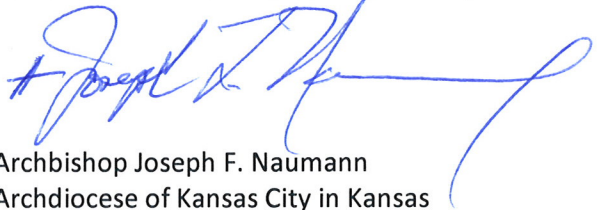
**Clergy Group:** The priests and deacons of the Archdiocese, the ordained ministers in the Church, are invited to a special meeting of the clergy in order to share with the Archbishop what they see as challenges facing the Church and to offer suggestions concerning how pastoral concerns should be prioritized. The Archbishop consulted the Presbyteral Council (council of priest advisors) before beginning the Visioning Process, but this meeting of the Clergy Group is an opportunity for any priest or deacon to offer their ideas.

**Listening Sessions with the Faithful:** Last, but certainly not least, are the large-group Listening Sessions that invite the comments and suggestions of the lay Faithful at large. There will be two large-group sessions, one in Overland Park and one in Topeka. The Faithful who were not part of one of the other groups are encouraged to attend and participate in the guided conversation about the Church's pastoral needs and priorities.

It is my hope that after prayerfully hearing the input of the various groups above; with the help of the Envisioning Team and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that I will be able to clearly articulate a relevant and mutually shared vision for this Archdiocese concerning the pastoral priorities for the years ahead. I anticipate being able to proclaim this vision on the Feast of Pentecost 2015 in a special Mass.

Please keep this Visioning Process in your prayers so that, with God's help, the Church in northeast Kansas will be better equipped to fulfill the mandate of Jesus and bring more and more souls into a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church. May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints aid us in this important mission.

Sincerely yours in Jesus, the Lord of Life,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph F. Naumann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann  
Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas