

## **Instructions for Healthy and Holy Mission Churches in the Diocese of Cheyenne**

Many Catholic faith communities in rural Wyoming come together in worship and in the practice of their faith without the benefit of a full-time resident priest. In many instances, the vibrancy of these communities is largely due to the dedication of talented, willing, and capable parishioners and lay leaders. With an eye to the future, the following expected disciplines are to assist in sustaining the continued viability and effectiveness of our “mission” churches.

### **As regards Liturgical Actions, a Mission Church will:**

- Train the faithful in the various liturgical ministries.
- Facilitate and promote the regular gathering of the faithful for Eucharist and the frequent gathering for Penance.
- Celebrate liturgical actions of the Christian faithful with full, active, and conscious participation.
- Collaborate with the main parish when they cannot celebrate key liturgical rites, such as the Triduum, Confirmation, etc.
- Provide funeral rites for deceased members and catechumens.

### **As regards Pastoral Action, a Mission Church will:**

- Assist members to live their priestly, prophetic, and kingly/shepherding call.
- Develop a true sense of community where pastoral care for one another flourishes.
- Lead the faithful to practice charity and work for justice.
- Diligently seek out the poor, afflicted, lonely, and those with special difficulties.
- Ensure that all the Christian faithful bear responsibility for the social mission of the church.

### **As regards Faith Formation, a Mission Church will:**

- Foster a sense that catechesis is a task which involves everyone and is for everyone.
- Ensure faith formation is available to all age groups.
- In possible collaboration with the main parish:
  - Call forth and prepare Catechists.
  - Provide Catechists the necessary material to fulfill their ministry.
  - Involve both lay faithful leadership and clergy, prepare parents and godparents who seek baptism of an infant.
  - Involve both lay faithful leadership and clergy, provide R.C.I.A. for adults and R.C.I.C. for children seeking Sacraments of Initiation.
  - Involve both lay faithful leadership and clergy, prepare and instruct parents and youth who are seeking the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation.
  - Involve both lay faithful leadership and clergy, prepare and instruct those who are seeking the Sacrament of Matrimony, validation of a civil union and those who are in need of a canonical investigation of a previous marriage.

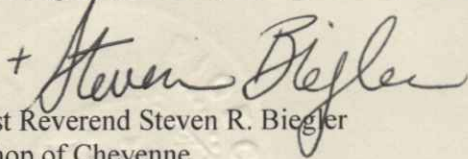
**As regards Evangelization, a Mission Church will:**

- Empower and equip the lay faithful to bring the gospel message to those who have ceased practicing their faith.
- Empower and equip the lay faithful to bring the gospel message to those who do not profess the faith.
- Empower and equip the lay faithful to speak publicly our moral principles and their impact on societal issues and human affairs insofar as the fundamental rights of the human person or the salvation of souls requires.

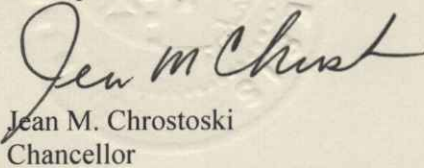
**As regards Governance and Financial Stability, a Mission Church will:**

- Call forth and empower lay leadership.
- Ensure representation on the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and committees.
- Involve both lay faithful leadership and clergy, prepare an annual budget.
- Be responsible for liability/property insurance.
- Be responsible for utility bills.
- Be responsible for necessities: liturgical needs (hosts, wine, etc.), catechetical materials, evangelization materials and charity.
- Be responsible for building and maintenance costs.

Given in Cheyenne, Wyoming on October 19, 2020 the Memorial of Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, Companions, and Martyrs.

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Most Reverend Steven R. Biegler  
Bishop of Cheyenne



Jean M. Chrostoski  
Chancellor