



Discernment Prayer Meetings for the Election of the XIth Bishop of Springfield

The Election Committee invites you, the Diocesan Family, to Prayer and Discernment Meetings for the Diocese.

At these meetings we will first gather in prayer for the election and for the nominees.

After the time for prayer, the Chair of the Election Committee, Fr. Gene Stormer will present the Profile of the Diocese and the results of the Diocesan Survey.

Finally you will be asked to share your positive experiences of the Diocese and help to develop some future goals that we can give to the new bishop as he or she begins their ministry among us. During the first year the new bishop will have to get to know us and develop some goals for the future of this Diocese. Our goals will be a help to him or her in this process.

Here are some questions that you may think and pray about before coming to the meeting.

- In the last ten years, what has happened in this Diocese that you would consider successful, a miracle, a joy, or a move forward for the Diocese?
- What has been your best experience in the Diocese?
- What do you think has not been done well enough in the Diocese?
- In the last ten years, what has been a missed opportunity or opportunities for mission and/or ministry in this Diocese?
- Moving ahead ten years, what would you like to see the Diocese accomplish?
- What organizational systems or diocesan norms need to be changed in order for us to reach these accomplishments?

The discernment meetings are not an evaluation of the ministry of the retired Bishop of Springfield but an opportunity for participants to reflect on the ministry of the Diocese as it has been and what it might be in the future.

The dates, times and venues for the Discernments Meetings are:

- **Saturday, May 8, 2010 - 10:00 a.m.** **St. Matthew's, Bloomington**
- **Saturday, May 15, 2010 - 10:00 a.m.** **St. Paul's, Alton**
- **Saturday, May 22, 2010 - 1:00 p.m.** **St. Paul's Cathedral, Springfield**
[After the Council meeting]
- **Saturday, June 5, 2010 - 1:00 p.m.** **Trinity, Mt. Vernon**