

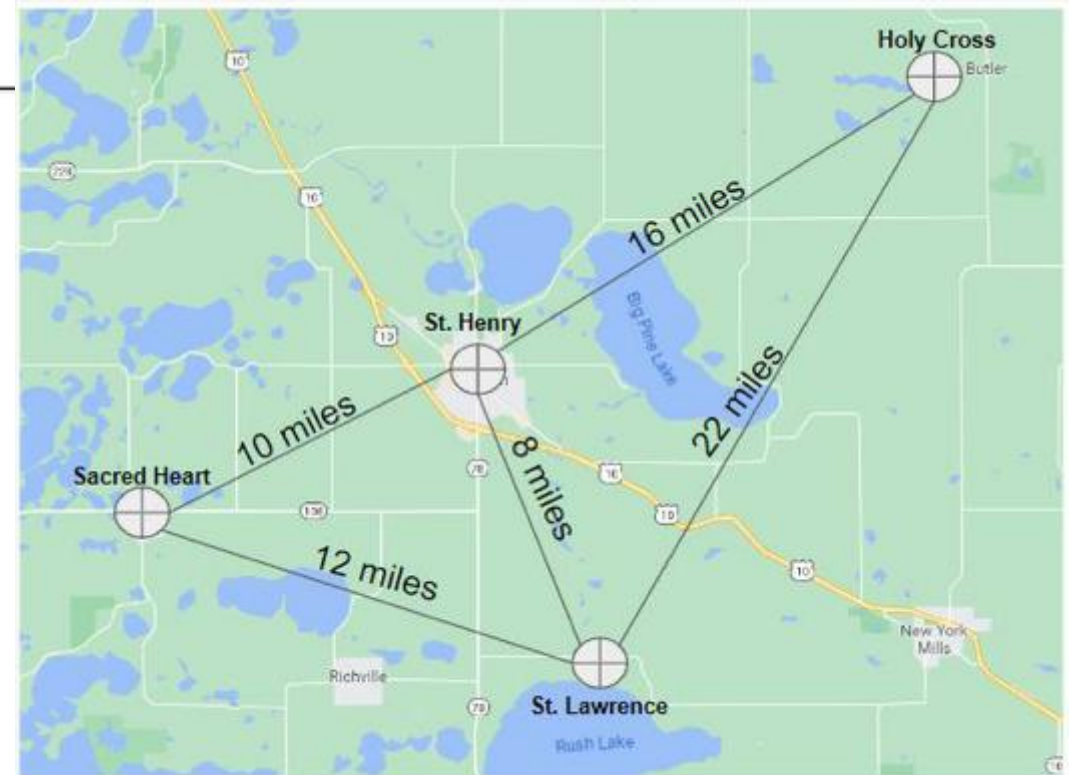
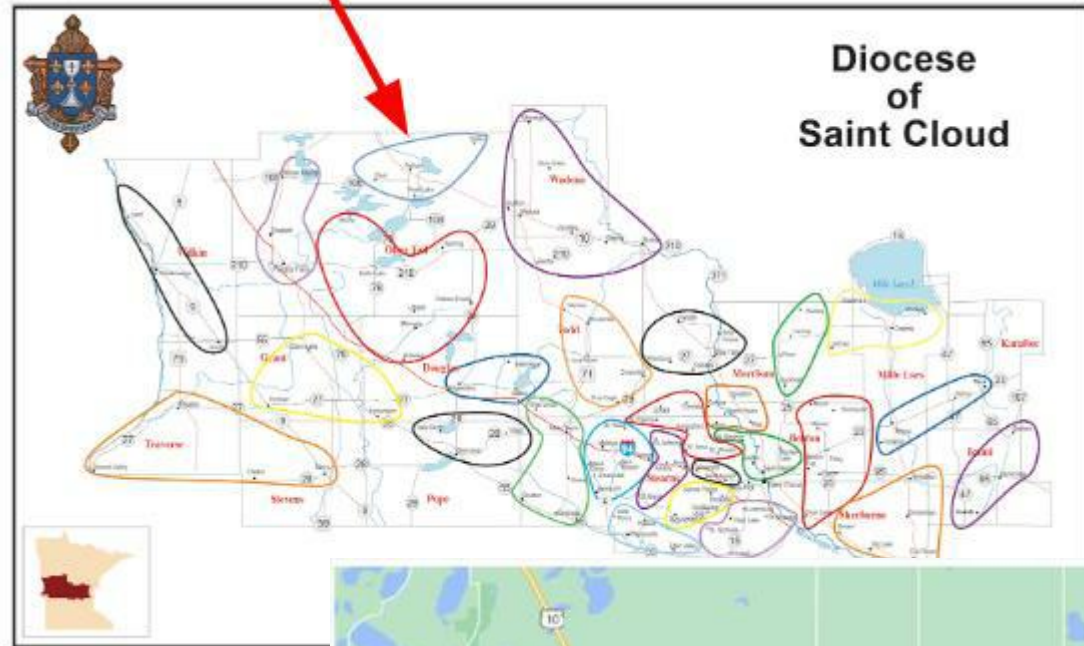
NORTHERN
CROSS

AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

- HOLY CROSS, BUTLER
- SACRED HEART, DENT
- SAINT HENRY, PERHAM
- SAINT LAWRENCE, RUSH LAKE

Where are we?

- Ottertail County
- Northwestern part of the Diocese of St. Cloud
- Parishes
 - Holy Cross, Butler
 - Sacred Heart, Dent
 - St. Henry, Perham
 - St. Lawrence, Rush Lake



Who are we?

- Rural area
- Beautiful farm and lake country
- A lot of tourists, esp. over summer months
- 2,554 Catholics
 - Holy Cross: 61 families
 - Sacred Heart: 154 families
 - St. Henry: 658 families
 - St. Lawrence: 185 families



Strengths

- “Manageable”
 - 2 priests, 4 parishes (1 pastor, 1 parochial vicar).
 - 2 deacons, and one in formation.
- It’s a natural setup, and has a history that goes back to 2004 and earlier.
- *The Perham Catholic Cluster*
 - 3 priests, 5 parishes
 - St. Stan’s closed in October 2009
- Confirmations and retreats together for years.



Working together

- The secretaries, Ann and Sandi, are an amazing team.
- People seem to bounce around the parishes comfortably.
- Parishioners support the festivals.
- Latino ministry
- ACC events
 - Dcn. Mark Stenger's Fundraiser
 - Chubby Sunday™
 - Joint bulletin
 - ACC Directory (still in progress)



You've heard of Mardi Gras...

You've heard of Fat Tuesday...

Now, get ready for the 1st Annual...

CHUBBY SUNDAY

SOUP & CHILI COOKOFF

Join us for an ACC wide soup and chili cooking contest! Bring a batch, give it a creative name, and vote for your favorite one!

Sunday, February 19th at 3pm

in the St. Henry's Church Basement

Stay tuned for the Grand Prize!!!



St. Henry's Area School

- St. Henry, St. Lawrence, and Sacred Heart.
 - Kids are from these parishes, along with Holy Cross and St. James in Maine.
 - Pre-K through 6th grade
- 148 total students this year (87 kids 18 years ago).
- Established in 1883, and the new school was completed in 2022.



Eucharistic Revival

- Adoration Chapel (built with new school)
- Corpus Christi Procession
- Ecce Homo Monthly Men's Event
- Formed.org
- Potential Lenten mission



Struggles and Challenges

- #1 concern: fear of losing parish identity... dissolving parish councils a concern for people.
- Finding new volunteers... the same people always seem to step up.
- Rotating clergy every weekend can create a sense of inconsistency.
- Confusion regarding ACCs in general:
 - Especially regarding the end goal.
 - People seem to sense that it's trying to solve a problem that didn't exist up here.



Fr. George's Priorities

- Spiritual Growth and Evangelization
 - Reaching out to the baptized, but uncatechized and unevangelized.
 - Especially those who have drifted away.
 - Making faith formation relevant and the foundation for living out the moral and social teaching of the Church.
- Hospitality and Unity
 - Create a welcoming environment that includes all members and visitors to the NCACC.
 - Encourage families to participate.
 - Bringing parishes together, while keeping and respecting each one's uniqueness and individuality.



