



Office of the Bishop

Bismarck Diocese

P.O. Box 1575
Bismarck, ND 58502-1575

Phone: 701-223-1347
Fax: 701-223-3693
www.bismarckdiocese.com

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Dickinson City Commissioners

Esteemed City Commissioners,

Permit me to introduce myself. I am Bishop David D. Kagan, the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Bismarck Diocese which encompasses all of Western North Dakota. The City of Dickinson is one of the four major population centers in the Bismarck Diocese and, as such, has four Catholic Churches, a growing and vibrant Catholic School system, a growing Catholic presence on the DSU campus, and several Catholic priests and Catholic Religious Sisters ministering to all in the City and its environs.

With that background, I appeal to you to approve the proposed comprehensive care facility for the homeless and the addicted. I know that this proposal raises many questions and opinions which is understandable. However, my appeal to you to approve the proposal is based entirely on the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ Who clearly teaches in His parable of the Good Samaritan that we are to help and extend ourselves to all and anyone in need, and it is not acceptable to ignore them. It is not good for those in need and it is not good for anyone who can help them and will not do so.

While all of the details of this proposal should be discussed openly, thoroughly and honestly, in the end I ask you to keep the human dignity of those in need as your first priority. Again, the Lord Jesus teaches us that how we treat the least of His brothers and sisters is how we treat Him.

I thank each of you for your kind consideration of my appeal on behalf of the poor and disadvantaged. I shall keep all of you in my prayers that you make a decision that supports the healing and restoration of the broken lives of our brothers and sisters.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend David D. Kagan
Bishop of Bismarck