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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Convocation of Parish Leaders: Evangelizing Missionary Disciples
hosted by Crookston and Fargo Dioceses brings 750 Catholics to Fargo

FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, November 30, 2018 — The Catholic Dioceses of Crookston and Fargo have come together to host 750 delegates from Northwest Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota for the *Convocation of Parish Leaders: Evangelizing Missionary Disciples* on November 30 and December 1, 2018 at Avalon Events Center in Fargo.

In July of 2017, the United States bishops, along with Catholic leaders from around the country, gathered in a historic meeting called *The Convocation of Catholic Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America*, attended by representatives from both the Crookston and Fargo Dioceses. Speakers delved into the nation's social and religious "landscape". Breakout sessions highlighted the peripheries and how to identify and reach them. Each delegation had the opportunity to discuss and ask the question, "What could missionary discipleship look like within our parishes and diocese?"

The Convocation of Parish Leaders in Fargo explores that question. Bishop Michael J. Hoeppner of Crookston and Bishop John T. Folda of Fargo invited pastors and their delegates to examine the Church's teachings on evangelization, missionary discipleship, and how to be a mission-oriented parish that seeks the lost and strives to be Jesus' mercy and love in a world marred by wounds.

The Convocation touches on several subjects, including current trends and statistics, what is providing hope in the Church today, and the challenges that the Church is facing.

"We want to look at who is being served in our parishes and who maybe aren't being served as they should be, as Pope Francis says, reaching out to the peripheries," said Ashley Grunhvd, an event organizer. "For example, we are having breakout sessions to examine how we work with young adults who are not practicing their faith anymore or have left the Church, how we should evangelize to family or friends who have left the Church, and what it looks like to evangelize in a rural parish versus in larger cities."

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About the Diocese of Crookston. The Diocese of Crookston was established in 1909 and comprises 14 counties over 17,210 square miles in northwest Minnesota. It has a Catholic population of 32,000 people out of a total population of 276,322 (8.5%). There are 50 priests (including active, retired and those serving outside the diocesan area), 18 permanent deacons, 47 religious sisters and 66 parishes in the diocese. (*The Official Catholic Directory* 2017).

About the Diocese of Fargo. The Diocese of Fargo was established in 1889 and comprises 30 counties over 35,786 square miles in eastern North Dakota. It has a Catholic population of 70,000 people out of a total population of 408,101 (17.5%). There are 131 priests (including active, retired and those serving outside the diocesan area), 46 permanent deacons, 89 religious sisters and 131 parishes in the diocese. (*The Official Catholic Directory* 2017).

For more information:

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