

Parish Software Change Announcement

In 2005, to assist in managing the relationships and interactions of the families and members of our parishes and diocese, we started using ParishSOFT Family Directory. In October of 2022, a committee was formed to review the current tools, explore new tools and make a recommendation to Bishop DeGrood and clergy leadership on which tools would be most beneficial for the future.

After 15 months of research and in-depth review of features, functions, security, costs and much discernment and prayer, the committee overwhelmingly recommended that our diocese and parishes would benefit greatly by moving to a new software platform called Ministry Platform.

The ParishSOFT Accounting software will NOT change.

This change applies only to the information that is tracked within the ParishSOFT Family Directory (family and member biographical info, sacraments, donations, faith formation, volunteer management, etc.).

Timeline

The first pilot phase will start in June/July of 2024 and the last wave will be completed by July/August of 2025.

What to expect

In the coming weeks, we will provide detailed information about data migration, training, support and resources to prepare your parish/pastorate for this change.

Change

We understand that change can be challenging, but we believe that this upgrade in our tools will benefit our parishes and diocese and help all of us in our goal of creating a culture of *Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God's Love*.

FAQ

To provide additional clarity and address a number of common questions about this software change, we have created a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** document.

Please feel free to reach out to Dawn Wolf if your question isn't answered by the FAQ document.

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Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls Ministry Platform software change FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Q 1. Will all of my parish's data within ParishSOFT Family Directory be migrated to Ministry Platform?

Yes, all of the data each parish has within ParishSOFT Family Directory will be migrated to Ministry Platform.

Q 2. Does this change affect ParishSOFT Accounting software?

No, this change only applies to ParishSOFT Family Directory and the modules contained within Family Directory:

- Religious Education
- Tuition
- Ministry Scheduler
- Intelligent Query
- Offering

Q 3. Does Ministry Platform have an online giving platform?

No, Ministry Platform does NOT have an online giving platform but is compatible with many online giving platforms, therefore parishes will not need to change their online giving software as long as the current software allows for exporting online gifts into a .csv or Excel format, which would then be imported into Ministry Platform.

Q 4. When will the parishes and pastorates in the Diocese of Sioux Falls migrate to Ministry Platform?

There will be 10-12 migration timeframes offered between May of 2024 and July of 2025. Each pastor in consultation with his staff will determine the best time for your pastorate/parishes to migrate. A

signup email with migration timeframe dates will be sent to pastors.

Each migration timeframe offered will last 4-6 weeks and will include self-paced training and online on demand staff training, migration of data, as well as ongoing support from diocesan IT staff.

***We highly recommend all parishes within a pastorate migrate during the same timeframe.**

All pastorates will be migrated and using the Ministry Platform software before August 1, 2025.

Q 5. Does Ministry Platform have a mobile application?

Yes, Ministry Platform does have a mobile application called “Pocket Platform.” This will provide an engaging app experience for your parishioners to engage in the ministries, groups and activities with your parish and pastorate.

Ministry Platform also has mobile friendly applications called Widgets designed to appear on specific pages of your website to allow people to find groups, events, or opportunities to serve, subscribe to publications, pledge to give and much more.

Q 6. Does Ministry Platform integrate with my parish website?

Yes, Ministry Platform has tools that can be integrated into your public website to provide event registration, small group finder, service opportunity finder, member information updates, online giving and event RSVP confirmations.

Q 7. Will Ministry Platform replace Flocknote?

Ministry Platform has built-in email and texting communication functions, so it has the capability to replace Flocknote’s communication tool. If a parish or pastorate wants to continue using Flocknote, they are free to do so.

Q 8. Does Ministry Platform have an API to allow for integrations with other software we use at the parish and pastorate?

Yes, Ministry Platform has a built in API (application programming interface) for no additional cost. Many Ministry Platform customers use the API with Microsoft's Power Automate and Power BI tools. Custom integrations can be created with the appropriate technical skillset.

Q 9. Does Ministry Platform have the ability to track contributions?

Yes, Ministry Platform allows for tracking and distributing contributions across multiple funds. It also allows for check scanning capabilities and importing contributions from other sources like online giving software.

Q 10. Can Ministry Platform help me manage a building or other campaigns?

Yes, Ministry Platform has comprehensive pledge campaign management and reporting capabilities.

Q 11. Does Ministry Platform allow for the management of multiple parishes?

Yes, with the appropriate permissions, business managers and other staff can manage parishioner data and activities in multiple parishes.

Q 12. Can Ministry Platform help me manage small groups?

Yes, Ministry Platform allows for comprehensive management of teams, classes, Bible studies and all kinds of small groups.

Q 13. Can Ministry Platform help me manage our mission trip or similar events?

Yes, Ministry Platform has mission trip management included, and you can manage trip fundraising as well.

Q 14. Can Ministry Platform manage events?

Yes, Ministry Platform can manage activities of all sizes from small meetings to large-scale events, with the ability to reserve rooms, take registrations, and publish the event publicly on your website if desired.

Q 15. What will Ministry Platform cost my parish/pastorate?

During the transition year (7/1/2024-7/1/2025), all parishes will be responsible for the cost of their existing ParishSOFT Family Directory software. Parishes will NOT be billed for Ministry Platform until July 1, 2025. ParishSOFT Family Directory software will not be renewed for fiscal year 2025-2026. The diocesan IT and Finance offices will share specific parish and pastorate cost estimates with pastors in early 2025. Ministry Platform is less expensive than ParishSOFT Family Directory, so pastors will see a reduced cost.

Q 16. Who served on the parish software review committee?

Name	Parish	City	Role
Susan Schaunaman	St Michael	Sioux Falls	Business manager
Gay Lynne Ames	St Wilfrid	Woonsocket	Secretary
JoNell DeHaan	St Peter	Platte	Faith formation and secretary
Courtney Deinert	Holy Family/Holy Spirit	Mitchell	Faith Formation/marketing
Angela Weller	St Bernard	Redfield	Faith formation and secretary
Helen Crow	Holy Trinity	Huron	bookkeeper
Janean Christopherson	Sacred Heart	Aberdeen	secretary
Kristine Shaffer	St Magdalen	Lennox	bookkeeper/secretary
Michelle Sage	Pope Pius XII Newman Center	Brookings	secretary-Newman Ctr
<i>Tara Arens</i>	<i>Sacred Heart</i>	<i>Yankton</i>	<i>Left in July 2023</i>
<i>Receptionist</i>	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>	<i>Watertown</i>	<i>Left in Nov 2023</i>
Kristine Fiegen	St Mary	Dell Rapids	Secretary
Therese Ortman	Holy Spirit	Sioux Falls	Office manager
Carla Haiar	Holy Spirit	Sioux Falls	volunteer
Fr Tim Cone	Pastorate #1		Priest
Fr Kevin Doyle	Pastorate #14		Priest
Fr Scott Traynor	Chancery/D&E		Priest
Fr Tom Anderson	Pastorate #14		Priest
John Woodraska	Chancery		Database Manager
Dawn Wolf	Chancery		IT director
Adam Staebell	Chancery		IT staff