

## DeoWeb - School Integration

The diocese has taken initiative to better integrate the educational system with parishes and the diocese through DeoWeb. The school boards in the North Bay and Sudbury regions have shown great enthusiasm for DeoWeb, and especially for how DeoWeb proposes to build stronger relationships between parents, students, schools and parishes.

The primary goals of the project are to:

1. Enable students to add content to their parish web sites by working with their parish team.
2. Have students help other people in parishes to use DeoWeb.
3. Enable school boards to add content to the diocesan site.

### **Reasons to Adopt Proposal – Key Benefits**

#### **7 Advantages for School Boards**

1. Schools and school boards may communicate more directly with Catholics in their districts.
2. Project supports and contributes to educational mandate for integrating religious teachings within the school curriculum (technology and religion, a practical approach)
3. Offering this type of training supports a differentiation strategy from the public school boards' curriculum since this project can not be reproduced.
4. Cost savings by reducing print, fax, and telephone calls.
5. A stronger triangle of communication and relevance between parishes/diocese, the students and their families and the school boards, built on increased contact, shared faith and values.
6. Increased school board internet and media presence, from the increased number of electronic pieces of media which will be created and accessed.
7. Students apply classroom learning to real world application at parishes. 40 hours of volunteer time needed to graduate could be used to drive this aspect of the project.

#### **7 Advantages for the Diocese / Parishes**

1. Diocese and parishes will be able to communicate with purpose to the youth of our diocese.
2. Parishes will have a continual source of content managers and resource people to keep their parish sites updated and relevant.
3. Diocese and parishes will better achieve their vision and mission of parishioners “joyfully embracing their baptismal call and expressing it in a faith lived daily through collaboration of clergy and laity nurtured by vibrant faith communities reaching out with actions firmly rooted in the Gospel of Christ.”
4. Enable parish priests to improve their ministry outreach by becoming more connected with and relevant to the youth in this diocese.
5. Increase the relevance and profile of the diocese inside the Catholic school system.
6. Students who are in 80% of targeted families that don't go to church are getting exposed to the Church and its mission, vision and values through technology and parish-related work.
7. This partnership will help change the Church's old school image by showcasing technology integration into all that it does furthering and increase their profile as a relevant institution in today's society.

This project is a large undertaking, like the first year deployment of DeoWeb. Consider that:

- There are five school boards, dozens of high schools, English and French languages used.
- There are many stakeholders involved: school boards, schools, teachers, students, diocesan administration, priests, parish staff and lay pastoral workers.
- Teachers will need to be trained on how to manage content with DeoWeb, so that they can teach classes of students the same skills. Curriculum will need to be developed.
- Linkages between the students, teachers and parishes will need to be managed.
- A copy of the DeoWeb system will need to be set up and managed so that multiple classes can use the system for hands-on learning. School board technical staff will need to be consulted to devise a plan. The system will need to be administered, possibly by board staff.
- The project will need to be monitored and evaluated to assess its effectiveness. Changes will need to be made, based on evaluations. The diocesan team will need to be in regular communication with school boards, principals, teachers and students.
- This project will become a major component of the DeoWeb ASP (web site) deployment. A long-term focus is needed to ensure its ongoing success.

FaithOnline envisions three phases to the project:

1. A **project planning** phase during the fall of 2005. The purpose of this phase is to work closely with all stakeholders to define the purposes, plans and outcomes for the project. The key deliverables will be:
  - A detailed plan for implementing the pilot phase, including a schedule and costs.
  - A high level plan for implementing the full rollout phase, including a schedule and costs.
  - Securing of funding for the pilot phase from multiple sources, so that the cost to the diocese is minimalized.
2. A **pilot** phase during the second school term in 2006. We expect the pilot will consist of a few classes in a few schools in one school board. The pilot gives us a chance to “test” the plan, to make improvements to the plan and minimize the impact of potential problems before attempting a large-scale rollout.
3. A **full rollout** phase across all school boards during the 2006-2007 school year.

This proposal covers the first phase. At the end of the first phase, the diocese and school boards the advisory committee will review the project plans for the pilot and rollout phases and decide whether or not to move forward with the pilot phase.

## Proposed Work – Project Planning Phase

For the project planning phase, FaithOnline will take the project manager role. FO will work closely with working committees to manage the project work and deliverables. FO will oversee and provide input into the following key components:

1. **Establish an advisory committee.** The committee is the final decision-making body, responsible for defining project vision and goals, reviewing and approving the deliverables of focused committees. The committee will be comprised of stakeholder representatives, consisting at minimum of a representative from each board and the diocese.
2. **Secure funding.** Secure funding from available sources, including school boards, government programs, religious organizations and private donations to complement funding from the diocese and school boards to cover the costs of the pilot.
3. **Define technical solution.** Work with school board IT staff to determine how to support multiple classes using the system in a classroom setting. Key questions include: Who will administer the system? Where will it be located? What are the performance measures? What system changes will be needed?
4. **Prepare curriculum.** FaithOnline will use its experience having developed the training materials for the DeoWeb ASP deployment and work with a curriculum committee to ensure the curriculum has input from stakeholders like OPECO, the diocese and teachers and also meets provincial guidelines.
5. **Plan teacher and board DeoWeb training.** Teachers and board staff will need to learn how to use the system for their respective needs.
6. **Define the parish – student relationship.** This is very important component of the program, similar in nature to a co-op placement. Determine how the student will apply the skills learned in a parish setting. This includes defining what supports and structure needs to be in place at the parish, what activities the student can / should be given, how this relationship will be monitored and evaluated. We anticipate that the diocese will facilitate this part of the program.
7. **Define the pilot scope.** Determine the number and location of school boards, schools, classes, students and parishes that will be involved in the pilot. Identify potential pilot members. We anticipate an appropriate pilot size will be approximately one school board, 2-3 schools and 2 classes per school.
8. **Define an evaluation process.** Evaluation is needed both for the planning and pilot phases. This is a unique project in many ways and so it is important to evaluate, learn and improve the process. The purpose of the pilot phase is to conduct a preliminary test of the plan, to measure the results and make improvements where necessary cost-effectively.