

# Ministry Day speakers will share ideas for recapturing “our spirit”

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Randy Parry has a message for people of the Sioux Falls diocese: “We need to care about each other.”

Parry and Dr. James Beddow will bring that message to this year's Ministry Day as keynote speakers for the event.

Ministry Day is set for Monday, August 16 at the Ramkota Inn, Sioux Falls.

Parry is the executive director of Miner County Community Revitalizations, Howard, South Dakota. Along with Dr. Beddow, the two men addressed the crisis facing rural America both spiritual and secular.

“We address the exiting of our youth from rural areas and creating amenities for our elderly and seniors,” Parry said. “What do we do about our young people to take care of them.”

Parry and Beddow's keynote presentation at Ministry Day will include a power point presentation and will have a strong interactive component.

“We explore how families are working with the church and how the church can form alliances within communities and regional areas with their counties and the state to make the place we call home a better place,” Parry said.

The issue is acute and needs special attention, according to Parry. He points out that in rural America there are now 6 residents per square mile, many fewer than 50 or 60 years ago.

“Changes are still coming,” he said.

“Hopefully, if people can be strategic in what they are trying to do, they can build their community back up which is what we are try-

ing to do.”

Parry says the parishes of the diocese are key to the idea because the parish has always been key to a community.

“As human beings, we are losing our sense of place, our sense of self that really give life meaning,” Parry said.

Parry and Beddow talk about how neighbors used to get together to raise barns for each other. Parry says those kind of events of the past “had a strong social, cultural and spiritual outcome.” He hopes to instill that in many of the people who register for and attend Ministry Day. “We need each other. We need to care about each other,” he said.

Registration materials for Ministry Day are available through each parish, by calling the diocesan offices at 605-334-9861 or on-line at [www.sfcatholic.org](http://www.sfcatholic.org).

Ministry Day aims to provide people with a day of prayer, education and community building.

That is exactly what Beddow and Parry promote and encourage.

“People used to be able to come together and talk about issues that are very important to their daily lives. We've lost that,” Parry said.

He said the practice made all of us closer.

“We are getting to be a community that is so entrenched in our daily lives that we forget about one other. We have to get back to that state,” he added.

Ministry Day, including the keynote address

Dr. Beddow and Parry seeks to give people, teachers, and ministers of the diocese an opportunity for continuing education that will help them in their work and spiritual journey.

Three years ago, the two keynote speakers set up the Rural Learning Center. They get calls from communities all of the country for help in trying to recapture “our quality of life and spirit of home.”

“If churches, tax entities, and civic groups can come together and come up with a vision and strategic plan, they can get things done,” Parry said.

“The premise of community building is all about how people who minister in eastern South Dakota like to get together and share experiences in their parish or school,” said Nancy Werner, vice chancellor and Ministry Day coordinator said.

Parry and Dr. Beddow have already addressed diocesan priests on different occasions. “We’re finding out that our ideas are spreading out to a number of communities and how the Church can be a significant player in community revitalization,” Parry said.

Ministry Day registration begins at 8:45 a.m. and the day concludes with the celebration of the Mass by Bishop Robert J. Carlson at 4 p.m.

Additional information about this year’s Ministry Day and registration for it is also already available in parishes and on line at [www.sfcatholic.org](http://www.sfcatholic.org).