

## TOGETHER IN FAITH PHASE TWO

# Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Plans

**1 Evangelization:** Does each parish have an Evangelization Committee? How do they implement the universal call to holiness and the mission of evangelization? How do the parishes promote the Gospel values by recognizing the dignity of all people?

**2 Youth and Young Adults:** How does each parish incorporate young people into activities of the parish? Is that reflected in the parish hopes and dreams for the future? Are young people educated about the role of service in our faith, and encouraged to be involved in Christian service activities? Beyond religious education/catechesis, what resources are available to help parents and families build strong foundations of faith in the home?

**3 Christian Service Outreach:** What kinds of Christian service activities does each parish provide to the neighborhood community? How are parishioners invited to share their skills and talents in these ministries? What types of regular donations/collections are there in support of local Christian service activities in the parishes?

**4 Lay Leadership:** How are current and potential lay leaders engaged to discern their role(s) in each parish? How are lay leaders formed, supported and evaluated in their leadership role(s)?

**5 Stewardship and Administration:** How does each parish embrace and teach all aspects of Christian stewardship and discipleship? Are there both a

stewardship commission and a finance council in each parish? How is parish financial information communicated to parishioners on a regular basis?

**6 From the Catholic School Advisory Board Plan:** What is the role of the Catholic school in the context of these other key priorities in the life of the Church (evangelization, youth and young adults, Christian service, lay leadership, stewardship and administration)? What new and creative ways can unite parishes with schools and vice versa so that the connection between school and parish is fostered and becomes a source of strength for the Church even after a child has graduated from school?

## Final Recommendations

**Begin with prayer (sample provided). Read aloud the life giving qualities of each parish, and the hopes and dreams for the future from the first meetings. Reflect on any comments or recommendations from the parish or vicariate council. Keeping these in mind, begin to develop recommendations for the parishes in the planning group.**

**1** Based on the reflections, dialogue, and parish activities now and proposed for the future, what are the most important aspects of the Church's presence within the planning group, and in the vicariate? In the region? What are the most exciting things? How can these activities continue and grow?

**2** What are some best practices that should be duplicated in other parts of the vicariate, region or archdiocese that are not occurring now? What can other parishes and vicariates learn from this planning group?

**3** Review the final recommendations from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC). How will the parishes improve on what they are already doing, in response to the APC plans, or how will these plans be implemented in the future? How are these plans supported by the data and the planning process to date? What resources will be needed, including people, time, talent and treasure?

**4** What recommendations can be made about future clusters, mergers, or different parish configurations? Which ones and when? How would these increase or grow the activities identified through the initial reflection process?

**5** Could parishes within the planning group combine financial and administrative activities to result in a merged parish with possibly one or more worship sites? Which ones? How would this increase the activities identified through the initial reflection process?

**6** Could a parish or worship site in its current form close and solely operate as an outreach center or to serve some other ministerial activity? How would that increase the activities identified through the initial reflection process?

**7** What resources will be needed, including people, time, talent, and treasure? If there are no Catholic schools within the planning group, how will the parishes ensure that Catholic school education is available to students within their parishes/vicariates/regions? How will the parishes support Catholic school education if a new Catholic school model is developed for current and future Catholic families?

**8** Does the condition of the current buildings and facilities meet the needs and projected needs of each of the parishes in your planning group? Could a parish better serve its population and mission in a different location and where?

**9** How does the data, maps and statistics provided support these recommendations?



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