

Who Do You Say That I Am? Visioning for the Future

What is the purpose of the Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions?

- To give parish leaders an opportunity to pray about, reflect on and discern the Pastoral Letter.
- Each session includes guiding questions that will help foster thoughtful dialogue related to the Pastoral Letter.

Who should be part of these gatherings?

- These sessions are intended for members of parish staffs and pastoral councils.
- Parishes can hold meetings with parish staff and pastoral council members together or can hold sessions specifically for parish staff members and separate sessions for pastoral council members.
- Parishes serving ethnic groups are recommended to include, at least, one person representing each of these groups (i.e. Asian Community, Black Community, Hispanic Community, etc.) in their Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions. This will provide a more diverse and wider representation of the parish.

Who should lead these sessions?

- The pastor, parish administrator or parish director is responsible for making sure the reflection sessions are offered for the parish staff and pastoral council.
- The pastor, parish administrator or parish director should either lead these sessions or designate someone to facilitate them.

How many sessions need to be held?

- To be realistic and respectful of your time, the materials have been designed to be used as **two 45 minute sessions** or **one 90 minute** gathering.
- However, please be creative with formatting the materials to what works best for you. You are welcome to expand the length of time or number of sessions; to use this resource as the basis for a day of reflection; or design whatever format allows for prayerful consideration of the reflection questions.
- We also have created videos from Archbishop ListECKI, Bishop Sklba and Bishop Hying regarding the Pastoral Letter. If you have not seen these videos yet, I would encourage you to view them prior to holding these sessions.

When should these gatherings be held?

- The Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions are intended to be held in spring 2013 (March-June).

Where do I find information about these sessions?

- A reflection guide has been created and can be found on the website
- A link to the reflection has been sent to parish staff members and pastoral council leaders too.

- In addition to that each parish will receive 30 copies of the Pastoral Letter and Parish Reflection Guide when they are available – these can be given to parish staff and pastoral council members.

What happens once these meetings are completed?

- **Parish Sessions in October and November, 2013** - Archbishop ListECKI is asking parishes to hold reflection session based on the pastoral letter for all parishioners.
- The archdiocese will provide parishes with materials and trainings for these sessions.
- **District Gatherings in February and March, 2014** – District Gatherings will then be held in February and March of 2014 to dialogue on future visions and initiatives for parishes and the archdiocese.
- An **Archdiocesan Synod** will follow these parish sessions and district gatherings and be held on Pentecost weekend of 2014.
- You will hear more about this possible synod in the future.

What is the significance of these sessions?

- It is important to **not** look at these various sessions and gatherings as **just linear events**.
- We are hoping these will all be **opportunities for reflection** for seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance for the Archdiocese as this time.
- The best image may be that all of these sessions are **“sowing seeds.”** Each of these gatherings gives us the opportunity to reflect on the Pastoral Letter and look at the needs of the archdiocese at this time. We are sowing seeds along the way which will hopefully pave the way for us as an archdiocese.

Where exactly is this leading us?

- Confident that through this process and these sessions it will become clearer as to what we need to do and **what we can do as a Church** in this archdiocese.
- Hopefully, **new innovations** will surface and we will have a clearer
- **Vision** for the future.
- All of these efforts are linked closely with **Evangelization**. Evangelization can be an overwhelming word and concept.
- Basically it is reaching out to others, who may not be familiar with the Catholic Church;
- But it is also trying to reconnect with those who are Catholic, but are not active in their Catholic faith;
- And it includes a revitalization of our own faith.
- This **an exciting time**. The Pastoral Letter, reflection session, district gatherings and a possible synod can truly help us to enliven the Catholic faith in ourselves, our parishes and throughout the archdiocese.

Who do we contact if we have any questions?

- Please contact Randy Nohl if you have any questions or need further information.
- Email address: nohler@archmil.org and phone number: 414-758-2216.

At A Glance Timeline

Who Do You Say That I Am?

The schedule below gives you an idea of where the Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions fit in the overall process.

Date	Activity	Responsibility
Spring 2013 (March-June)	Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessions for parish staff and pastoral council members • Sessions for Catholic school teachers 	Pastor, Parish Administrator, Parish Director or designated person to facilitate these sessions Catholic school principals will determine the best time to hold reflection sessions with their teachers (spring or fall 2013)
June 2013	Set dates and begin the planning for parish gatherings in October 2013 to reflect on the Pastoral Letter	Designate 3-5 people to take care of necessary planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archdiocese will provide material and training
August 2013	Recruit small group facilitators for the October parish gatherings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish staff and pastoral council members who took part in the March-June leadership sessions would be ideal small group leaders 	Designated planning team (see June 2013) coordinates recruitment of small group leaders
October - November 2013	Hold parish reflection sessions based on pastoral letter for all parishioners	Designated planning team (see June 2013) to coordinate these sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archdiocese will provide materials and training
February – March 2014	District Gatherings to dialogue on future visions and initiatives for parishes and the archdiocese	Parish to designate representatives to attend districts sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archdiocese will provide materials and training • More information to follow
June 6-8, 2014 Pentecost Weekend	Archdiocesan Synod <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegates gather to finalize future visions and initiatives and begin to develop a plan for implementation 	Archdiocese will provide materials and training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information to follow