

Post 2020 Planning Process Update

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Work Continues

Despite the Covid 19 pandemic, the Post-202 Planning Process continues in earnest. Specifically, we continue our task of articulating a faithful, courageous, and visionary plan for parishes and schools of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that is anchored in the mission of the Church. This ten-year direction includes recommendations, both short and immediate term, as a roadmap for the future.

Mission-Driven

The deliberations and recommendations of our prayerful planning process are driven by and tested against our “Eight Guiding Principles,” which keep us anchored in a “data informed – mission driven” approach. In keeping with those principles, we are planning toward a Church stronger in Catholic identity and more on fire for Evangelization through the Stewardship of ordained and lay leaders accompanied and equipped for mission.

Team Approach

To accomplish our task and achieve the vision of our guiding principles, we have assembled an interdisciplinary planning team that is collaborative in approach and rich in pastoral wisdom. This team brings direct experience in ordained ministry, lay leadership, Catholic schools, parish life, evangelization, youth and young adult ministry, marriage and family ministry, and demographic analysis.

Strategic Process

The planning team pursues its task using a strategic approach. Focusing on one Deanery at a time, the process unfolds in the following fashion:

- 1. Pray for wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. Examine the deanery through a broad lens.** What are the non-parish pastoral needs within the territory of the deanery, such as hospitals, correctional facilities, colleges, cultural groups, etc.? Where are the gaps in Catholic presence or the need for increased Catholic presence? What are the key demographic realities and trends?
- 3. Examine each parish in depth and in relation to neighboring parishes.** Is there a school or school system and what are the strengths and needs? Who are the ordained and lay leaders and how can we better support them? What leaders do we need for the future? What are the trends relative to membership growth, sacramental vibrancy, financial stability, Mass attendance, and formation vitality? What cultural groups are present and how are they being served? Is there a commitment to and pathway for making adult disciples? How does the parish reflect the population profile where it resides? What unique opportunities and challenges does the parish face in its mission to evangelize? Does this parish stand alone or does it collaborate or cluster with neighbors for mission vibrancy and growth?
- 4. Make specific recommendations for mission vibrancy based on research and pastoral wisdom.** What recommendations need to be made for individual parishes? What recommendations are necessary for collaborating and clustering parishes? What recommendations apply to the deanery as a whole? What recommendations emerge for the whole diocese? What recommendations for the Pastoral Center are necessary to support the parish, deanery, and archdiocesan recommendations?

5. **Consult with the Vicar, Dean, and Priest Council Representative**
What affirmations and revisions are recommended from the Vicar's pastoral experience? How can the recommendations be strengthened by the local perspectives of the Dean and Priest Council representative? Revise the recommendations in light of these consultations.
6. **Present the Recommendations to the Archbishop for Approval**
What affirmations and revisions are recommended by the Archbishop? Revise the recommendations accordingly.
7. **Upon final approval from the Archbishop, move into the next phase of implementing the recommendations.**

For additional information on the Post-2020 Planning Process, please visit:

<https://www.archmil.org/offices/parish-planning-councils/Post-2020-Planning-Process.htm>