



BEACONS ROUNDTABLE

April 25, 2023

Synodality
Pastoral Councils



Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother,
present our prayer of thanksgiving to your Son.
Beg from Him the graces we need to be faithful disciples
who follow Him with enthusiasm and joy.
May our witness to the love of God bear fruit
in our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts.
Teach us to be God's joyful witnesses,
to radiate Christ in all we do,
so that all people might know, love and follow your Son
through this life and into the next.
Amen.



Agenda

Prayer & Welcome

News on Beacons of Light

Time Management

Synodality

Pastoral Councils

Announcements

Closing Prayer



Stewardship Champions



- Staff person who works with parishioner core team
- With the core team, leads the Family to embrace stewardship as a way of life
- Resource for discerning champion in platform – stewardship module 1
- **First orientation: May 11**



Time Management

Don Frericks, Executive Coach & Beacons Liaison



“Time Management”

Stay organized and prioritize what you need to do with the least effort.



Quiz

1. What is the most important “currency” in your life?
2. They say you tell a person’s priorities by looking at their _____ and their _____.
3. Most people have challenges managing their _____.
4. Many people have tried multiple systems and _____.

A calendar page with a red cover and a yellow highlight on the right side. The calendar shows dates from 1 to 28, with some dates in red (4, 11, 18, 25) and some in green (15, 22, 23). The days of the week are labeled at the top: TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN.

What's Your Biggest Challenge?

I have too many to-dos and insufficient time to do them.

I have too many meetings and can't attend all of them.

I spend too much time on lower-priority items.

My meetings run over and create a problem.

I never have time for myself.

I can't do it all.

Other: _____

Don't Break It If It's Working

I love my time management
system, and I'm not going to
change it!

My system is:



The Ideal System



- Is easy to use. Doesn't take much time.
- Allows for frequent changes.
- I feel good that I accomplished what I wanted to accomplish.
- What else?
 -
 -
 -
 -

The Power of Your Mind

- A new system doesn't change your habits if you don't change your thinking.
- What self-talk do you need to change?
 - *I can't do it all!*
 - *I'm so overwhelmed!*
 - *I've never been very organized!*
 - *I hate meetings!*
 - *I don't know what to do and what not to do!*
 - *I would stay organized if I only didn't have all the interruptions!*
 - *I have to be at all the meetings!*



What's A Leader To Do?

1. Block out time for yourself and keep it as the most important thing.
2. Say no to more meetings: family leadership meetings only...
3. Close your door for part of every day, and don't let anyone interrupt you.
4. Use the One Minute To Do list or a daily system that works for you.





The One Minute To-Do List

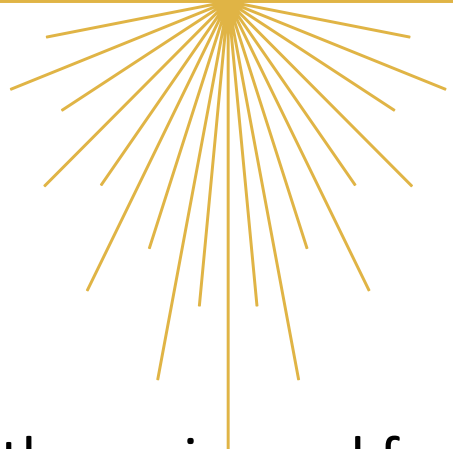
by Michael Linenberger

Create daily a list of:

- 3-5 things that have to be done today: the **“Critical Now”** items
- 3-5 things that are not urgently due now, things you could work on if you had the opportunity: the **“Opportunity Now”** items
- Anything on your mind that can wait ten days or more for you to get to – **“Over the Horizon”** (don't rewrite)

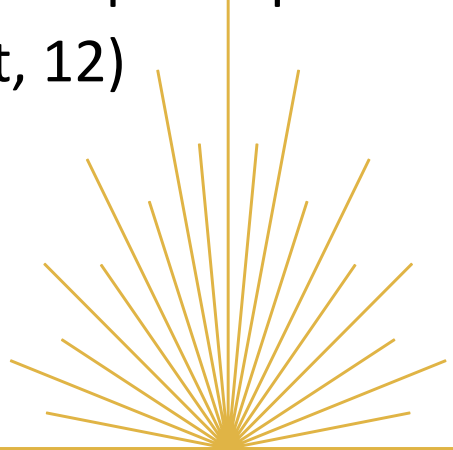


Synodality



“Synodality represents the main road for the Church, called to renew herself under the action of the Spirit and by listening to the Word. The ability to imagine a different future for the Church and her institutions, in keeping with the mission she has received, depends largely on the decision to initiate processes of listening, dialogue, and community discernment, in which each and every person can participate and contribute.”

(Preparatory Document, 12)



Synodality: Journeying Together

“To put it in a nutshell, synodality is journeying together . . . It is about looking at the Church and living the Church as People of God, altogether, missionary pilgrims on the road. It is about putting into practice three key words: communion, participation, mission. It means that in a parish all the processes will foster communion among the community. It’s about enabling people to participate, be protagonists, be a missionary disciple as [the] baptised, it’s about carrying on the mission together. It’s always for the mission” (Sr. Nathalie Becquart).

Synodality: Journeying Together

- Listening
 - More than simply hearing
 - Listening to one another and to the Holy Spirit
 - Affirms each person's dignity and responsibility via Baptism
- The People of God
 - Share in the prophetic office of Christ
 - Give credible witness to the apostolic faith
 - Converges to a point of unity in faith
- Discern Together

Synodality: Ideas for Your Family

- Listening and Input
 - Time after Mass
 - Staff presence
 - Councils, commissions, core teams
 - Town halls
 - Surveys (digital or print) - general or topical
 - Question box with in-person or print response
 - Communication (1- and 2-way)

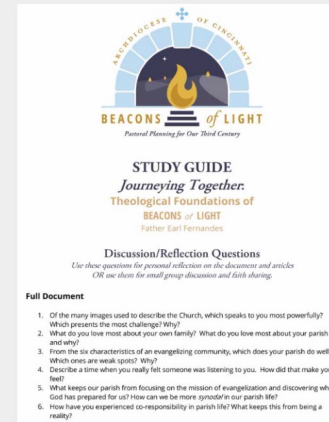
JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Journeying Together provides theological foundations for Beacons of Light. In addition to the full text, you can find articles from *The Catholic Telegraph* by Fr. Earl Fernandes (in both English and Spanish), as well as a study guide for reflection and discussion.



Journeying Together
Document

DOWNLOAD



Journeying Together
Study Guides

DOWNLOAD ENGLISH

DOWNLOAD SPANISH

<https://pathway.catholicaoc.org/phase-0-learn/phase-0-journeying-together>



BEACONS of LIGHT
PASTORAL PLANNING PATHWAY

Synod
2021
2023

SYNODALITY &
BEACONS OF LIGHT



The Archdiocesan pastoral planning initiative Beacons of Light commenced at roughly the same time as Pope Francis announced a Universal Synod on Synodality. These two initiatives (synod and Beacons) are not in competition, but rather are complementary. If implemented properly, Beacons of Light will lead to a more synodal Church, and the synod itself will provide an explicit opportunity for listening to the Holy Spirit as our Families of Parishes enter into the pastoral planning process.

Many of the themes prevalent in the listening sessions here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati are being addressed in Beacons of Light. Notably, synod participants hope for a greater sense of welcome and efforts at hospitality in our parishes. Through the Pastoral Planning Pathway, Families of Parishes will be explicitly invited to consider how to welcome one another, and to continue welcoming all those who seek the face of the Lord in worship, formation, and service.

Synod participants called out the need for more engagement of young adults, especially the parents of young children. One of the explicit aims of Beacons of Light is to strengthen the domestic church, the family, which will also strengthen parish communities. A focal point of our Evangelization efforts in the coming years (one of the 6 foundational principles in pastoral planning) will be engaging all young adults in vocational discernment, as well as in forming parents for their crucial role in leading the domestic church.

Finally, synod participants want to see more collaboration and communication among pastors and parish leaders. Another one of the 6 guiding principles of Beacons of Light is Leadership. Pastors, parochial vicars, deacons and lay ministers all share responsibility for pastoral leadership. Thus, efforts in pastoral planning even as soon as Phase 1 will focus on developing parish leaders, forming a leadership team for each Family of Parishes, and the development of pastoral councils for each Family. With clergy and lay leaders serving together in a spirit of genuine listening and openness to the Spirit of Jesus, our Families of Parishes can best build up the Kingdom of God here in southwest Ohio.

Families of Parishes will be invited to consider the results of the local listening sessions, and the work of the synod at the global level, as they undertake pastoral planning in the coming years. As we all continue to listen together to the Holy Spirit, let us continue to radiate the love of Christ!

<https://pathway.catholicaoc.org/about/synodality-and-beacons-of-light>



Pastoral Council

Guiding Principle



LEADERSHIP

Pastors, in collaboration with parochial vicars, deacons and lay ministers, according to their proper roles and charisms, share responsibility for pastoral leadership. The spiritual, physical and mental health and ongoing support of ordained and lay leaders is vital for Families of Parishes.



The Parish Pastoral Council

What is a parish?

- “A certain community of the Christian faithful stably constituted in a particular church, whose pastoral care is entrusted to a pastor (*parochus*) as its proper pastor (*pastor*) under the authority of the bishop” (canon 515 §1)

What is a parish pastoral council?

- A group of parishioners selected from among the various cohorts of individuals who make up the faithful in a parish, over which the pastor presides, who assist the pastor in fostering pastoral activity (canon 536)



The Parish Pastoral Council

Key attributes

- Expression of spirituality of communion, the Body of Christ
- Rooted in the priesthood of the baptized; highlights and realizes the centrality of the People of God as the subject and protagonist of the evangelizing mission of the Church
- Non-deliberative structure; possesses a consultative vote only
 - Cannot validly operate apart from the pastor
 - The Pastoral Council expresses the ecclesial and canonical relationship between the Parish Priest and the rest of the faithful; it does not disrupt this relationship



The Parish Pastoral Council

Function

- “...in which the Christian faithful, together with those who share in pastoral care by virtue of their office in the parish, assist in fostering pastoral activity.” (canon 536 §1)



The Parish Pastoral Council

- Assist the parish priest by presenting him with proposals and suggestions:
 - Regarding missionary, catechetical, and apostolic undertakings
 - Concerning the promotion of doctrinal formation and the sacramental life of the faithful
 - Concerning pastoral activities to help the priests in the various areas of the parish (territorial and social)
 - Concerning public opinion on matters pertaining to the parish and the Church



The Parish Pastoral Council

- Can also be extremely useful for:
 - Mutual communication of experiences and for proposed undertakings of various types by which the concrete needs of the people of the parish can become clearer to the pastor and a more opportune means of pastoral action may be suggested to him



The Parish Pastoral Council

- The Pastoral Council does not:
 - Limit the right of the faithful who are not on the Council to directly approach the pastor regarding their own needs and desires
 - Therefore, it is not a representative governing body or a sole channel of communication between the pastor and parishioners.



The Parish Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council does:

- discuss matters of importance so that the Church's mission is effectively carried out in this particular place;
- work in a spirit of prayer and discernment;
- express to the pastor the voices, needs, desires, and concerns of the parishioners; and
- help to determine how best the resources of the parish can be used for the mission of the Church.



So many Teams!

Family Leadership Team (FLT)

Who?

- 5-7 staff, including the pastor.
- Comprised of Directors of Administration, Evangelization and Worship, Schools Leader (principal or equivalent) plus 1-2 more key collaborators

What?

- Led by Pastor.
- Meets regularly with the Pastor as a team and one-on-one with the Pastor.
- Members delegated authority to supervise pastoral staff.

Why?

- Responsible for implementation of the mission and vision.
- Helps Pastor delegate responsibly.

When?

- Not so fast! End of Phase One.

Pathway Team

Who?

- Pastor (or delegate)
- Combination of staff and parishioners from each parish.

What?

- Assists with planning activities for the Family
- Provides consultation on executing other pathways of Phase 1

Why?

- Champion the pastoral planning process

When?

- Ad hoc. September 1st – at least the end of Phase One

Family Pastoral Council

Who?

- Pastor
- Representatives of the Family of Parishes community

What?

- Advise the pastor on important matters of pastoral activity

Why?

- Provides official consultation that will aid in the Parish Merger process and pastoral planning for the Family of Parishes.

When?

- By the end of Phase One



Phase 1 <



Eucharist



Church



Leadership

Leadership Overview: Phase 1

1.1 Leadership in the Family of Parishes

1.2 Family Leadership Commitment

1.3 Leadership Formation

2.1 Form a Family Pastoral Council

2.2 Establish a Council That Prayerfully Discerns

2.3 The Family Council Ensures Representation

3.1 – Discern the Family Leadership Team

2.1 Form a Family Pastoral Council

Phase 1 < Leadership < 2.1 Form a Family Pastoral Council



MODULE



MATERIALS

All members of the Christian faithful are called to share in the mission which God has entrusted to them. In fact, “the whole community, and not simply the hierarchy, is the responsible agent of mission, since the Church is identified as the entire People of God.”^[1] To that end, each Family of Parishes will have a pastoral council that will assist the pastor in the decision-making for the Family. The pastoral council represents the Family of Parishes community, and it has the task of advising the pastor on important matters of pastoral activity. The function of the pastoral council is “to investigate everything pertaining to pastoral activities, to weigh them carefully and to set forth practical conclusions concerning them so as to promote conformity of the life and actions of the People of God with the Gospel.”^[2] Parameter 11 states:



“Every Family of Parishes will have a unified pastoral council, with other relevant and necessary consultative groups for specific areas of parish life.”

<https://pathway.catholicaoc.org/topic/2-1-form-a-family-pastoral-council>

The Parish Pastoral Council

Questions?



Phase 2 Update

The primary focus of Phase 2 is the Family Visioning Process



VISIO DAY



PREPARATION



LEADERSHIP
VISIONING



PRINCIPLE VISION
REVIEW



VISION
CONVOCATION



VISION
CONFIRMATION



VISION
COMMUNICATION

FAMILY VISIONING

Gathers broad input, builds consensus, lays foundation for culture phase

Phase 2 Update

- In addition to Visioning:
 - **Formation of teams** such as Worship, Stewardship, Evangelization
 - **Prayer and discernment opportunities** for parishioners
 - **Begin discernment** of canonical mergers.

PRINCIPLE	PHASE 2 VISION
 EUCHARIST	Create a vision for a Eucharist-centered parish, form a Family Worship Commission and Family Worship Dept of staff.
 CHURCH	Increase Family prayer and discernment opportunities focused on a shared future.
 LEADERSHIP	Leaders discern and create the vision for the Family.
 STEWARDSHIP	Offer opportunities for stewardship formation for parish leaders and create a Family vision statement for stewardship.
 EVANGELIZATION	Form an Evangelization Team; establish personal and team prayer and formation commitments and practice healthy teamwork.
 LOVE IN ACTION	Solidify leadership for the Love in Action Parish Family Core Team and create a local vision.

Beacons Roundtable 2023



Tuesdays, 1:30p-3p

*Video, Slides, and
Other Resources
Emailed Afterwards*

May 16: Leading Change,
Proposing Vision, Bringing the
Family Along for Phase 2,
Difficult Conversations

Closing Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.