



# Pastoral Council

**DEANERY CONVOCATIONS**

October 2023

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Beacons of Light

# Deanery Convocation



Welcome & Prayer

“Beacons 101”

Role of Pastoral Council

Q&A

BREAK

Canonical Processes

Q&A

Concluding Comments and Prayer

## Prayer to the Holy Spirit used at Councils, Synods, & Church Gatherings

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.



*Pastoral Planning for Our Third Century*

# WHY

**Missionary  
Discipleship:**

Every Catholic should have an opportunity to belong to a parish that forms them to embrace the call to missionary discipleship.

**Domestic Church:**

People will be formed to live and nurture their faith at home.

# HOW

**Vital Parishes**

57 Families of Parishes, each led by a pastor who shepherds the community to radiate Christ

Each Family develops a pastoral plan to grow in communion and live in mission as a community of faith.

# WHAT

**People and Parishes that Radiate Christ**

**Planning Principles**

- Eucharist
- Church
- Leadership
- Stewardship
- Evangelization
- Love in Action



## From Pastoral Regions to Families of Parishes

208 Parishes

109 Pastoral Regions

May have more than one pastor

Mostly autonomous

Little collaboration

Resources spread thin

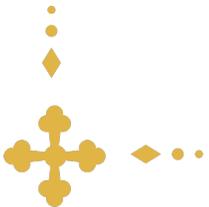
Families of Parishes

One pastor with parochial vicar(s)

Unified leadership

Collaboration

Shared ministry and resources



# BEACONS *of* LIGHT

## Overview

<b>Strategic Planning</b> December 2020 - November 2021	Data gathering and analysis Discerning Families of Parishes
<b>Pastoral Planning Design</b> March 2021 -	Phases, Principles, Parameters Pastoral Planning Pathway
<b>Family Pastoral Planning</b> March 2022 -	Pathway team - Spring/Summer 2022 FLT and Pastoral Council - ongoing



# BEACONS *of* LIGHT

## Building Blocks for Parish Vitality

Beacons of Light is designed with building blocks to enhance pastoral life in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.



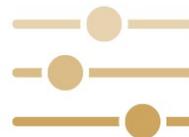
### PHASES

Sequential areas of focus; the phases are not tied to calendar years.



### PRINCIPLES

Foundational elements that contribute to the vision and mission of Beacons of Light.



### PARAMETERS

Common expectations for all Families of Parishes; what every Family must or must not do.



### MILESTONES

Markers for each principle that determine when a Family has completed a phase.



# BEACONS *of* LIGHT

## Principles

**Essential aspects of parish life which  
must be fully realized for parish vitality**

### THE SIX GUIDING PRINCIPLES



**Eucharist**



**Church**



**Leadership**



**Stewardship**



**Evangelization**



**Love In Action**

# Pathway Phases

**Outcome:**



**Leadership**  
12 – 18 Mo

Building a Family Leadership Team (FLT) and a unified Family Pastoral Council (FPC) will establish the depth and breadth of staff and lay leadership which will engage in Beacons of Light project.

**FLT & FPC**



**Vision**  
6 – 9 Mo

A vision is a rallying cry for a vital and missionary Family of Parishes. The FLT must collaborate with lay leadership to cast this vision. Visio Day and the Family Visioning Process foster collaboration and support from a broader group.

**Vision Statement**



**Culture**  
6 – 9 Mo

Vision only works if it is purposefully incorporated into the parish family life and ecclesial culture. The Culture phase will enable the FLT and other leaders to align their strategies and activities with the vision of a vital and missionary Family of Parishes.

**Strategy for Culture Management**



**Planning**  
6 – 9 Mo

Now that a vision and ecclesial culture are defined, the FLT and Family leadership then collaborates on a strategic plan that identifies the strategies, work steps, resources, and timelines necessary to achieve that vision and continue to foster the ecclesial culture defined by the vision.

**Plan**



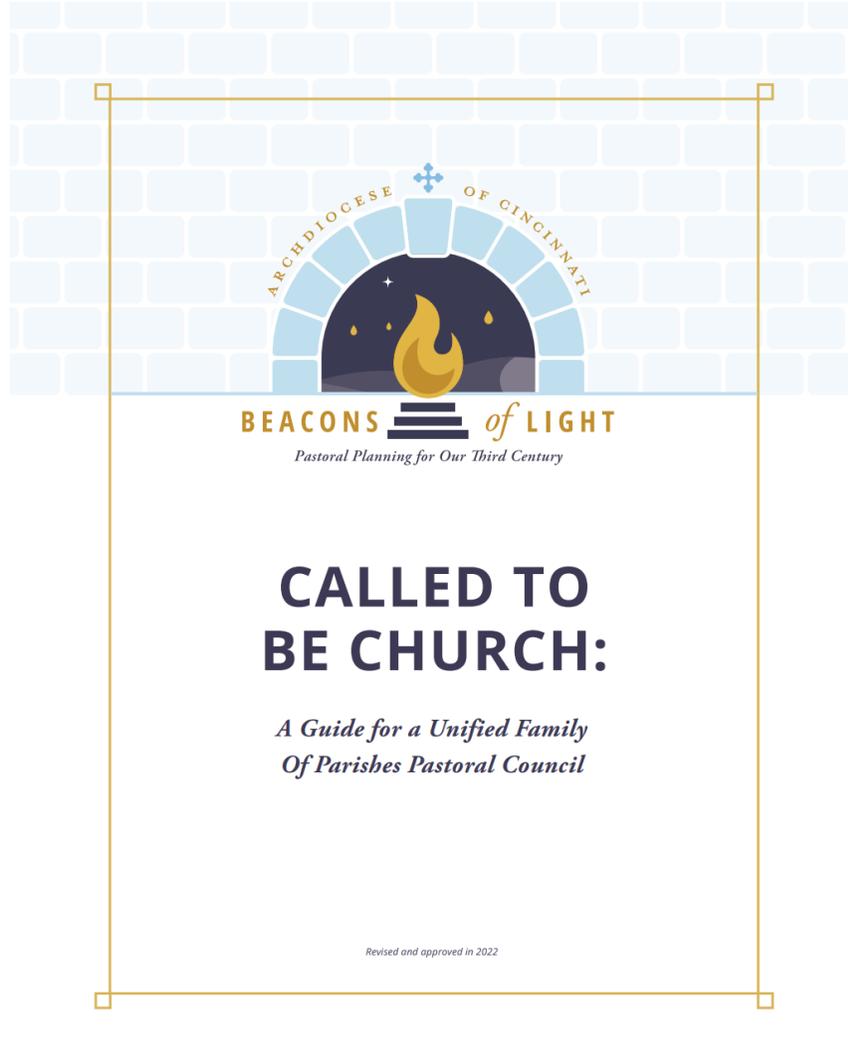
**Mission**  
9 – 15 Mo

Implementing the planned action steps is how the Family of Parishes then achieves that vision, changing the Family of Parishes culture to support unity, parish vitality, and missionary discipleship. *This then becomes an ongoing mode of operation as the Family of Parishes continues to plan and execute.*

**Vibrant Parish - Making Disciples!**

*The first three phases of Beacons of Light (Leadership, Vision, Culture) build a refreshed foundation for a renewed Family of Parishes that can then plan and execute for mission in the subsequent phases.*

# Pastoral Council



## ***Called to Be Church***

Archdiocese of Cincinnati  
Guidelines for Pastoral Councils

- Available in English AND Spanish
- Addresses Families of Parishes
- Use QR code on handout and will be emailed in late October

# Pastoral Council

1. The pastoral council is a consultative body that assists the pastor in matters of pastoral activity, and it explores and studies matters of importance to the Family of Parishes.
2. The pastoral council works in a spirit of prayer and discernment as a sign and witness to the Family of Parishes.
3. Pastoral planning for the Family of Parishes is the principal activity of the pastoral council.
4. The pastoral council is the primary means by which the voices of the parishioners are represented.
5. All councils, commissions, and committees work in a spirit of mutual cooperation for the good of the Family of Parishes.
6. Selection for the pastoral council shall be determined in a manner which allows for the participation of the Family of Parishes.
7. Each Family of Parishes develops its own pastoral council guidelines in accordance with the universal law of the Church and with the policies of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

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# Pastoral Council

**COMMUNION**

**PARTICIPATION**

**MISSION**



## Pastoral Council

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Listening to the Word of God  
Through the Living Tradition of the Church  
Grounded in the *sensus fidei* that we share

Engage in the exercise of deep and respectful  
listening to one another

Pray, listen, analyze, dialogue, discern, and offer  
advice on making pastoral decisions

**ARTICULATE THE  
MISSION OF THE  
PARISH**

**SET THE VISION FOR  
THE PARISH**

**PLAN FOR THE  
PASTORAL NEEDS OF  
THE PARISH**



# **Listening is the core characteristic of the Pastoral Council**

Council members listen carefully to:

- What the pastor asks of them
- To the perspective each has to offer
  - To their fellow parishioners

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# Pastoral Council



**INVESTIGATING**  
**REFLECTING**  
**RECOMMENDING**

## **Recommend -- Act**

The council makes the decision to **recommend**

The pastor makes the decision to **act.**

## Pastoral Council

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All the members of the Council feel that they have had every opportunity to influence the position that the Council decides to recommend to the pastor.

All the members of the Council are able to support the position being taken even though some members may feel it is not the very best decision possible.

Those Council members who have raised objections have had their concerns adequately addressed and they have been assured that no fundamental value is being compromised in moving in the direction being proposed.

All the members of the Council can publicly support the decision as if it were the first choice of the Council.

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## **Q&A**

### Role of the Pastoral Council

# Pastoral Council

## Pastoral Councils in the *Code of Canon Law*

- Canon 536
- Canons 511-514

NB – composition and function

# Pastoral Council

*Christus Dominus and Directory for Pastoral Ministry of Bishops*

- Representative composition
- Function
- Consultative nature
- Presided over by pastor

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# Deanery Convocation

## **Q&A**

### Role of the Pastoral Council

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# Deanery Convocation

# **BREAK**

# Pastoral Council

Pastoral Councils in a grouping of parishes can be unified

- Current reality of each situation
- Extremes to avoid
- Models of Unified Council
  - Representation
  - Numbers

# Pastoral Council

## Role of Councils in canonical processes

- Parish vs. church
- Amalgamation vs. merger
- Parochial church vs. subsidiary church
- Relegation of sacred space to profane use and alienation of property
- Recommendation
- Canon 50

# Pastoral Council

Questions to ask:

- Where are we?
- How do we communicate where we are?
- Where do we want to go?
- What do we have to do to get there?

# Pastoral Council

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## DOs:

- Use clear language
- Keep accurate minutes
- Document communications

## DON'Ts:

- Rush
- Forget the emotional work that has to be done

# Q&A

## Role of the Pastoral Council in Canonical Processes

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Pastoral Council

# Concluding Comments

*[vitality@catholicaoc.org](mailto:vitality@catholicaoc.org)*



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.

