



## Parish Staff and Pastoral Council Parameters Consultation

Beacons of Light is a multiyear process of pastoral planning for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Rooted in prayer, groupings of parishes will come together as one faith community. These new Families of Parishes will be stronger together, focused more on mission than on maintenance. In the Families of Parishes we will grow closer to God, follow Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and radiate Christ in our lives.

**Meeting Goal:** The goal of this gathering is to provide an opportunity for parish staff and pastoral councils (in separate meetings or together) to offer insights and ideas toward the development of planning parameters. The parameters will establish common expectations that every Family of Parishes will observe as they create and implement their pastoral plans. In essence, parameters describe what Families of parishes must or must not do. Review the roles, preparation, and follow-up steps in advance to ensure that the meeting is as productive as possible.

**Introductory video:** If the parish has a computer and projector, it will be best to view the video together during the meeting. If not, send the video link to participants in advance.

**Facilitator:** The pastor may facilitate this meeting or designate a facilitator. The facilitator is responsible for ensuring that all participants are given opportunities to contribute and for keeping the discussion focused on the meeting goal.

**Timekeeper:** A timekeeper and recorder should also be appointed. The timekeeper will ensure that the discussion stays on track with the agenda. The outline that follows is based on a two-hour timeframe. Some pastors may elect to hold two meetings for this process in order to provide additional time for the discussion. If discussion on one principle goes longer than fifteen minutes, shorten the time on a following principle in order to complete parameters on the six principles.

**Recorder:** The recorder maintains the list of proposed parameters and any feedback the group wishes to offer. Following the meeting, the pastor or his designee will enter the group's contributions into the online survey provided for this purpose.

**Preparation and Follow-up:** In preparation for the meeting, make the appropriate number of copies of the participant materials and a copy of the meeting recording sheet. Following the meeting, complete the survey linked here or designate someone to complete the survey on your behalf to submit your input. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/beacons-consult-1>

### **Timed Agenda:**

#### **Welcome, opening prayer and reflection:** 15 minutes

Welcome everyone. Briefly explain the goal of the meeting and thank participants for their service to the parish and for their role in this process.

#### **Introductory video:** 10 minutes

A brief video has been prepared to introduce Beacons of Light and explain the elements of the process. Before viewing the video, distribute the worksheets to participants. It will be helpful for participants to have the worksheet at hand as the elements are described.

#### **Parameters discussion:** 15 minutes per principle (totaling 90 minutes)

For each principle, discuss the parameters the group thinks are essential for all Families of Parishes to observe. Draft parameters have been included for your consideration. You may affirm any you believe should be included or note any you believe are not essential. Space has been provided for you to add potential parameters. Keep in mind, this is a working draft. Every pastor, staff, and pastoral council is being asked for this input and feedback.

#### **Wrap up and closing prayer:** 5 minutes

Thank participants for their participation and ask them to continue to pray for your parish and for Beacons of Light. Close in prayer.



## Parameters Consultation Participant Guide

### Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

(Pause for silent prayer)

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that your Church may always remain that holy people,  
formed as one by the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
which manifest to the world  
the Sacrament of your holiness and unity  
and leads it to the perfection of your charity.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, forever and ever. Amen.

### Reading from Sacred Scripture

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (MT 5:14-16)

### From Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

"The parish is a beacon that radiates the light of faith and thus responds to the deepest and truest desires of the human heart, giving meaning and hope to the lives of individuals and families."

## **Question for Reflection and Sharing**

When you first think of the parish as a beacon of light, what comes to mind for you?



### **Parameters Discussion:**

For each of the six principles, consider what common boundaries every Family of Parishes should observe. What must every Family of Parishes do? What must Families of Parishes not do? Some potential parameters are included in the worksheet provided.

You may affirm any parameters that are already listed, share additional ideas that arise in discussion, or note things you do not believe are essential as parameters.

You do not need to be concerned about complete sentences or full thoughts; noting the gist of a concern or area for attention will be enough. Your contributions will be taken into consideration with those of all parishes, pastoral regions, and clusters, building on the wisdom of many parish leaders.

Ask the recorder to make notes on the worksheet as clearly as possible so that your input may easily be transferred to the consultation survey.

“Radiate Christ. These two words summarize God the Father’s hope for humanity on this earth. The words contain both a reality and a mission: the reality of the person of Jesus Christ as the Savior of all people and the mission of each Christian to participate in the Son’s redemption of the world.”

– Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr

## Wrap-Up

Following your discussion, share any announcements or updates that are pertinent to your group. Invite participants to share any people or situations they are holding in prayer. Following this brief time of sharing, close with the following prayer.

## Closing Prayer

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.