



BEACONS ROUNDTABLE

May 12, 2021

The Post-Covid Parish

Parishes as beacons in the autumn and beyond



As we gather:

What is the most creative thing
your parish did during Covid-19?



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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.



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Agenda

The vision of Beacons of Light : Vital Families of Parishes

Six principles to guide parish life

Breakout discussion and debrief

Next steps, News, Announcements

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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

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, moving toward becoming one parish led by one pastor.

WHAT

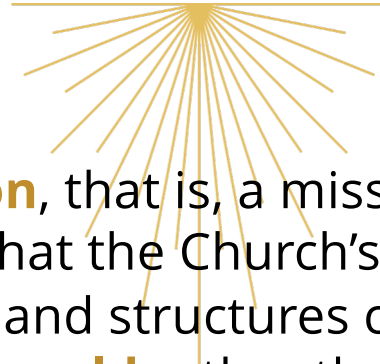
People and Parishes that Radiate Christ

Planning Principles

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



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“I dream of a **missionary option**, that is, a missionary impulse capable of **transforming everything**, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be **suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world** rather than for her self-preservation.”
(EG, 27)

“**The parish is the presence of the Church** in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebrations. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers.”
(EG, 28)

“The **pastoral conversion** of the parish in the service of the evangelizing mission of the Church.”

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Guiding Elements

Principles

Values that will guide pastoral life in the Families of Parishes



Vision Points

Living the vision to create Families of Parishes that are beacons of light



Parameters

What must each Family of Parishes do? What must each Family of Parishes not do?

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Guiding Principles



The Mass is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. Accordingly, the Eucharist is the essential moment for building up and strengthening the parish community, along with the sacraments and other celebrations of the paschal mystery — the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



- The **Sunday Eucharist is the essential gathering** of the parish community each week and is the “paradigm for other Eucharistic celebrations”; therefore life-giving, beautiful, and transformative celebration of Sunday Mass is critical.
- Sacramental celebrations and other parish and school liturgies are **true encounters with Jesus Christ** present in Word and under sacramental signs.
- Every Family of Parishes **offers liturgical and sacramental formation** “with zeal and patience”, deepening an appreciation of the sacred mysteries
- Attention to ***ars celebrandi*** is important: fidelity to texts and rubrics as well as a prayerful understanding of liturgical texts, feasts, and seasons kindles **full, conscious, and active participation** among the faithful.



- Priests, deacons, and lay liturgical ministers are **well-trained and formed for leadership** of communities at prayer and are “imbued with the spirit of the liturgy.”
- **Churches, chapels, and other sacred buildings** should be “truly worthy and beautiful, signs and symbols of heavenly realities”, **the house of the Church and the house of God**, “suitable for carrying out the sacred action and for ensuring the active participation of the faithful.” (GIRM, 288)
- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is readily available within the Family of Parishes, with proper catechesis for all
- The **cultural traditions of the members** of the Family of Parishes are honored and celebrated, particularly on special feasts

Guiding Principles



Each of us is called to actively participate as a member of a parish, the Universal Church and our local Church, led by our archbishop. Parishes continually deepen the bonds of communion with other parishes.





- The Archdiocese is organized in **Families of Parishes** which are gathered into deaneries.
- In communion with the pope, the **bishop exercises leadership** in the local Church.
- Deaneries enhance regional subsidiarity; **explore cooperative ministries** between Families of Parishes.
- As they become one Family, **the culture and history of the parishes** are acknowledged and honored, working together to create a new and vibrant culture for the Family of Parishes.
- A strong **communications** process is cultivated **in and between the Family of Parishes**.
- People come to understand the **nature of the parish as the people within a given territory**. With this, they will grow in understanding themselves as **members of Christ's Body, the Church**, more fully appreciating her mission and teaching. We are what we believe.

Guiding Principles



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 Family of Parishes is led by a **single pastor** who is appointed by the archbishop.
- The Family **moves toward becoming one parish led by one pastor.**
- **Deacons** are part of the diocesan clergy and are appointed by the archbishop.
- All members of the Family of Parishes **support and foster the health and well-being of all leaders**; in doing so, we ensure the well-being of the Church.
- There is **clarity of roles and processes** in decision-making within the Family of Parishes.
- **Laity are valued and respected for the viewpoints they bring** to the Family and are used effectively for the growth of the Family of Parishes.
- Pastors **actively cultivate skill in leadership** and draw others into leadership with them.
- Clergy and laity are offered and participate in **on-going opportunities for leadership development and support.**

Guiding Principles



Families of Parishes are communities of grateful disciples. Recognizing God's gifts, they use their talents, skills and resources to build up the Church and live as Christ's body in the world.





- The parish is a community that **warmly welcomes newcomers** and **offers hospitality** to everyone.
- Stewardship is fostered as a **spiritual way of life**.
- The Family of Parishes actively **engages people** as contributing members of the community; **parishioners are encouraged to take leadership roles** as appropriate and are offered formation to equip them as leaders.
- The parish forms people to **hear and respond to God's call** in their lives – from the individual moments of each day to their overall purpose of living out their vocation.
- Parishioners are formed as disciples who **grow in gratitude** and **become willing to share** their time, talents, faith, and resources within the parish and beyond it.
- The parish actively engages people of all ages and stages of life and faith to contribute in **ministry, service, and giving**.
- The Family of Parishes engages a **broad and representative group** in the parish to participate in the ongoing process of **ministry development and the shaping of parish life**.

Guiding Principles



As centers of missionary outreach, Families of Parishes find new ways to foster discipleship among all the baptized. Schools, religious education, faith formation and indeed the domestic Church itself are centers of this essential work.





- The parish has a **simple and clear discipleship process** that evangelizes, establishes disciples, and equips the laity for personal apostolate and vocation.
- The pastor with his leaders **prioritizes prayer, formation, and discernment** in order to allow the Holy Spirit to inspire missionary activity.
- The Family of Parishes invests time and resources in the evangelization of **young people and their families.**
- **Catholic schools are an essential ministry** of the parish by being an “effective vehicle of total Christian formation” for young people and their families.
- Catholic schools are **models of Catholic teaching, doctrine, and mission.**
- Parishes and schools form people to **respond to the call to holiness**; in answering this call, the people have a passion for **vocational discernment.**

Guiding Principles



Families of Parishes will be communities of charity and justice, serving those most in need and working to change systems that oppress and marginalize.





- The Families of Parishes seek ways to **recognize the human dignity of each person**, especially the unborn; the stranger; persons who are elderly, sick, poor, imprisoned, and marginalized; persons with disabilities; and persons of all races and cultures.
- The Families of Parishes **actively facilitate the affirmation, inclusion, and meaningful participation** of all Catholics in the community of faith.
- Families of Parishes understand that **ministries of charity and justice flow necessarily from our sacramental life**, for as Pope Benedict XVI said, “For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.” (*Deus Caritas Est*, no.25a)



- Families of Parishes **educate and form parishioners** – utilizing the rich history of Catholic Social Teaching and Scripture – on what it means to **BE a community** of salt and light in today’s world, a people who model mercy, grace, and forgiveness.
- Families of Parishes inspire all community members to go beyond regular Mass-goers and their buildings’ walls to **encounter Christ in and be Christ to all.**

Breakout Discussion



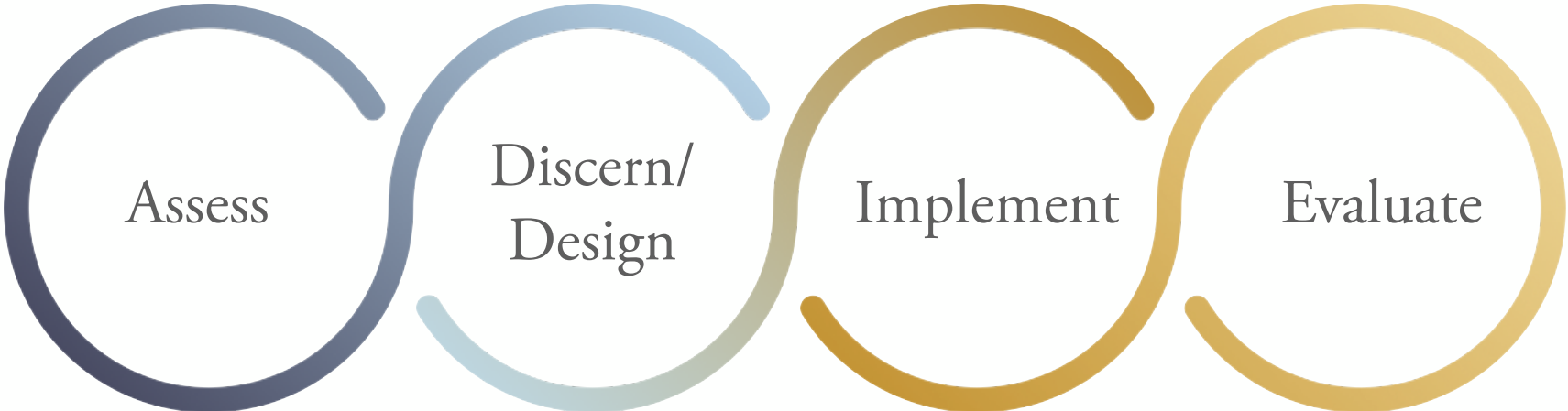
With the principles in mind:

What has the pandemic taught us?
What have you learned? What can you build on?
Put vision to life – dream big!

Debrief Discussion

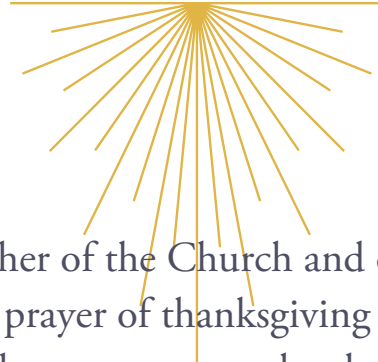


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Pastoral Planning for Our Third Century



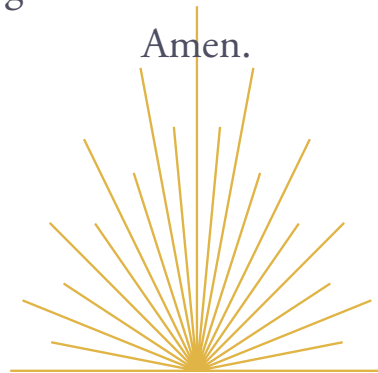
Next Steps, Announcements

- Pray
- Beacons Update
- Parameters consultation
- Assessment tool review/input
- Post-Beacons Roundtable Evaluation Survey
- Be on the lookout – new communications expected June 4



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.



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