



# Planning Parameters Consultation

Priests, Parish Staff,  
& Pastoral Council  
Input Summary  
June 4, 2021

Once the Families of Parishes are formed in the winter of 2021, the pastoral planning process begins. Foundational to the process are the six **principles** approved by Archbishop Schnurr: Eucharist, Church, Leadership, Stewardship, Evangelization, and Love in Action. Each principle is further explained and amplified by **vision points**, which paint a picture of a parish that is truly a beacon of light.

Within each principle are also **parameters**, the “musts” and “must nots” that each parish must consider when developing the pastoral plan.

During the month of May 2021, each parish pastoral council and staff were asked to consider these **parameters**, to respond to some draft parameters, and to suggest new ones. The input of pastors and parochial vicars was included in this, and other priests were asked to provide input as well. **THANK YOU** to everyone who submitted feedback and led consultation sessions in their parish.

We received input from **97 parishes/regions**, which includes the input of hundreds of lay parish leaders.

St. Andrew: 9  
Cathedral: 6  
Dayton North: 4  
Dayton South: 5  
St. Francis De Sales: 6  
Hamilton: 10

St. Lawrence: 11  
St. Margaret Mary: 9  
St. Martin: 8  
St. Marys: 1  
Sidney: 10  
Springfield: 3

In addition to responses from **85 pastors**, input was received from **5** priests with non-parochial assignments, **7** parochial vicars, and **7** retired priests.

Thanks to everyone who suggested additional parameters or revisions to the draft ones. Since the deadline was May 26 (and some continued to trickle in until June 1), we will process the narrative input in the coming months. For now, a snapshot of how parish leaders reacted to the draft parameters for each principle is offered below.

## Draft Parameters: % Affirmed:



**Principle 1: Eucharist:** The Mass is the source and summit of the whole Christian life and accordingly, 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.

Draft Parameters	% Affirm
Regular Mass schedule may not exceed two Masses per day per priest (three weekend liturgies per priest)	80
Number of Masses scheduled in the Family must provide the opportunity for priests to be present to their people before and after Mass	81
Sunday Mass should normally be 50-60 % full	65
A sufficient number of trained and formed liturgical ministers serve as readers, servers, EMsHC, music ministers, et al.	84
Every Family of Parishes should have a commission on worship and sacraments	56
Sacramental preparation must be provided	98



**Principle 2: Church:** Each of us is called to actively participate as a member of a parish, of the Universal Church, and in our local Church, led by our archbishop. Parishes continually deepen the bonds of communion with other parishes.

Families of Parishes must develop a pastoral plan to be approved by the archbishop	80
Families collaborate with other Families within the deanery to provide common pastoral care (e.g. hospitals, care facilities, prisons, etc.)	87



**Principle 3: 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.

Priests must be able to have a day off.	97
Priests must take an annual retreat.	95
Every Family of Parishes has a Pastoral Council and a Finance Council with representatives from each of the parishes in the Family (separate financial records maintained for each parish).	88
Whenever possible, staff is unified to serve the entire Family, not just a specific parish.	90
Priests, deacons, and lay leaders participate in ongoing formation for leadership.	85
Every vicar serves 5 years prior to assignment as pastor.	64
A deanery-centric mechanism is created for scheduling of retired priests (need opportunity to say no)/ those without a parochial assignment.	64
Deacons are assigned to a Family of Parishes	77



**Principle 4: Stewardship:** 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.

Every Family of Parishes should have a Stewardship committee/commission	57
Every Family of Parishes should have a vocations committee	54
Every Family of Parishes is fiscally accountable	96
Families of Parishes develop a plan with a balanced budget and/or addresses indebtedness over a period of time	97
School support x% of overall budget	63
Parishes support no more than x% of school budget	64
Use of buildings – assessment of physical plant(s)	84



**Principle 5: Evangelization:** As centers of missionary outreach, Families of Parishes find new ways to foster discipleship among all the baptized. Schools, parishes, and indeed the domestic Church itself, are centers of this essential work.

Every Family of Parishes must have a Catholic elementary school	19
Every Family of Parishes should have an Evangelization committee/commission; responsibilities include attention to sacramental formation and preparation as well as catechesis	69
Every Family of Parishes has processes in place to invite and form returning Catholics	90
Every Family of Parishes is attentive to ecumenical relations in their community	61



**Principle 6: Love in Action:** Families of Parishes will be communities of charity and justice, serving those most in need and working to change systems that oppress and marginalize.

Every Family of Parishes must offer material support for those in need (i.e. SVdP)	92
Every Family of Parishes should have a social justice and outreach commission/committee	54
In every deanery, there is a physical place where people can come for assistance in which every Family of Parishes contributes	49



**What's next?**

Since the submission deadline of May 26, the feedback hasn't been thoroughly reviewed, only the very topline results are shown above. Over the coming months, various groups will process these data and comments, refining the parameters, which will ultimately be approved by Archbishop Schnurr to guide the pastoral planning process in each Family of Parishes

You can always share your feedback on *Beacons of Light*: [vitality@catholicaoc.org](mailto:vitality@catholicaoc.org)