



ARCHDIOCESAN PASTORAL PLANNING

We are actively taking steps to strengthen our focus and reaffirm our Mission with the development of a comprehensive pastoral plan. This will improve direct engagement with each parish, allow us to be more responsive to the faithful, and create a stronger and better organized Archdiocese.

What We Have Accomplished:

- We conducted town hall meetings to gain input from each aspect of the Archdiocese.
- We established an Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, Parish Pastoral Councils, and a Council of Priests to advise the Archbishop directly and to seek and secure input on our planning and organizational activities.
- We drew inspiration and guidance from V Encuentro Nacional de Pastoral Hispana/Latina, which seeks to discern ways in which the Church in the United States can better respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence.
- We initiated Parish Pastoral Council training sessions to assist in the formation of councils to help in practical parish planning, and to adopt best practices of successful councils and parishes.
- We launched parish CORE team training and small-group facilitator training for the “Healing Our Church” initiative:
 - Created by RENEW International, this program is a small-group resource which faces the issue of clergy abuse head-on and helps the lay faithful begin the healing process and move forward, with the clergy, as a family of faith.
 - RENEW International has over a 40-year record in revitalizing parish life in more than 150 dioceses in the United States, touching the lives of 25 million people through its ministry services.



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Our Road Ahead:

- The pastoral plan will provide clear priorities that can be implemented at all levels of the Archdiocese.
- We will identify main areas of parish activity for particular pastoral attention — in each of these areas, key activities will be selected.
 - While some of the priority activities will happen primarily at the Archdiocesan level, most can only be effective when given attention locally in parishes, or by parishes working jointly within their deanery.
- We have made it a priority to invest in the ongoing training and development of the Parish Pastoral Councils and Finance Councils.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you observed activities at your parish to demonstrate that a stronger pastoral planning process is in place? Do you feel your pastor has made this a priority?
2. What steps must still be taken to strengthen and affirm our commitment to this important pillar of our pastoral vision?
3. What actions can you take — as a member of the Church — to support this commitment?

