

decisions.

5. Develop a Vision Statement for the parish and the future that is realistic in terms of the data collected.

*“Vision without action is merely a dream.
Action without vision just passes the time.
Vision with action can change the world.”*

Joel A. Barker

B. Components of Planning

1. Develop a Mission Statement or update the current mission statement.
2. Determine Goals
3. Identify Strategies/Objectives

C. Enacting the plan

1. Plan fully developed with Mission Statement and Strategies/Objectives.
2. Time line developed for completion of plan
3. Method of evaluation and updating plan included as part of the plan.
4. Presented to the full Pastoral Council for signature as affirmation of the plan and presented to the Pastor for his approval and ratification.
5. Plan a ratification ceremony to publish the plan to the parish.
6. Involve the Finance Council in feasibility studies and/or budget restraints that will effect the time table; not the plan.

SOURCES

Diocese of Shreveport, *Journey With the Spirit:*

Pastoral Council Handbook for Parishes, 2001

Daues, Sr. Margaret, Chancellor, Diocese of Shreveport,

“Putting the Mission Statement into Action”, Pastoral Planning, April 2005.

Diocese of Shreveport

3500 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71104

Phone: 318-868-4441 or 800-256-1541; Fax: 318-868-4469

Randy G. Tiller, Chancellor

Email: rtiller@dioshpt.org

Diocese of Shreveport

Eucharist: The Center of Pastoral Planning and Mission

A Quick Reference Handbook

January 2020

EUCHARIST AT THE CENTER

The communal celebration of Eucharist is both the source and summit of all essential elements of parish life and the mission of the parish. “The aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made children of God by faith and baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of His Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord’s supper.”

(Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II)

The Eucharist is the center of parish life and of our faith in Christ Jesus. In the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy from the Second Vatican Council we read:

“Every liturgical celebration, because it is an action of Christ, the priest and of His body which is the Church, is a sacred action surpassing all others; no other action of the Church can equal its effectiveness by the same title and to the same degree.”

While many other parish activities enhance the essence of the Eucharist, there is no substitute for what takes place in the celebration. Without the Eucharist at the center of parish life, the mission is devoid of meaning and evangelization is without substance because we fail to practice what we preach.

Jesus’ command to “Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19) is not merely an invitation to imitate what He did. “It is directed at the liturgical celebration, by the apostles and their successors, of the *memorial* of Christ, of His life, of His death, of His resurrection, and of His intercession in the presence of the Father. From the beginning the Church has been faithful to the Lord’s command.” *The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 388.*

The seven essential elements (*Evangelization, Worship, Word, Community, Service, Leadership, and Stewardship.*) of a parish’s pastoral mission, then, with the Eucharist at the center, provide the filter through which the “new wine is poured into new wineskins. “ The parish’s purpose is constantly sifted through these seven elements as the pastoral council leads the community in the ongoing, prayerful discernment of the call of God to the parish. The pastoral council provides this leadership primarily through the process of pastoral visioning and planning.

I. PASTORAL PLANNING

The primary responsibility of the parish pastoral council is Pastoral Planning. This process envisions, addresses and evaluates the needs and goals of the parish community in light of Church teaching and the mission of both the local and the universal Church.

Pastoral planning is always mission motivated. Through this process, the council discerns what needs to change, supported or enhanced by the parish faithful in keeping with the parish mission. Pastoral planning is an ongoing cyclical process in which the parish pastoral council engages.

II. PLANNING PROCESS

A. Pre-planning

1. Data Gathering– Census, demographics, parish profile and parish statistics.
2. Evaluate where the parish has been, and where it is presently in terms of the seven elements of parish life.
3. Assess the needs and desires of the parishioners for the future.
4. Investigate any ecumenical involvement, sharing of resources with other parishes, long term diocesan