



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin this New Year, I am happy to present a new format of the Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Pueblo. Its design is unique. Its aim is to deepen the faith already alive in your parish. The focus is on you as a parish developing your own plan according to your own unique needs. The guideposts for your planning are the five themes consistent in the last three plans I promulgated during my nearly twenty-nine years as your Bishop.

The five themes: Evangelization, Worship and Spirituality, Lifelong Catechesis, Justice and Peace, and Stewardship are central to people of any age in Catholic parish life. We all are called to spread the good news of Jesus. Evangelization is the mission of our Church. The Eucharist is at the very heart of our faith. It is our central form of worship, and in the words of Pope Benedict XVI, "it is the source and summit of the Church's life and mission."

Through catechesis we continue to grow and deepen our learning about our loving God, our Church, and the infinite mysteries of our faith. Peace and justice teach us the critical need of treating our brothers and sisters fairly if we hope to experience the longed for peace we want for our families and our world.

In stewardship we share our gifts with one another. When the cathedral steeple was struck by lightning and caught fire, children in the area came up to me giving me their nickels and dimes so I could rebuild the steeple. They shared their concern, their time, and the gifts they had. This example from our children teaches us the meaning of stewardship.

As your Bishop, I invite you to seriously reflect on each of these themes and discern how you are being called to be a vibrant, faith-filled Catholic parish in today's world. Review your own parish mission statement, making sure it speaks to who you are today and what you are called to do.

Thank you for participating in this pastoral planning process. May God bless all our efforts as we continue to build up the Body of Christ in southern and western Colorado.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Arthur N. Tafoya
Bishop of Pueblo

EVANGELIZATION

“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always to the end of the age.” (Mt. 28:19-20)

“The new evangelization is not a matter of merely passing on doctrine but rather of a personal and profound meeting with the Savior.” (Pope John Paul II)

“In countries with ancient Christian roots, and occasionally in the younger churches as well, entire groups of the baptized have lost a living sense of the faith, or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church, and live a life removed from Christ and his Gospel. In this case what is needed is a ‘new evangelization’ or ‘re-evangelization’.” (Pope John Paul II, “Ecclesia in America”)

In our parish, evangelization means:

Some Ideas for Parish Implementation:

- Be welcoming to others.
- Celebrate the spiritual diversity of different cultures.
- Reach out to those not involved in the life of the Church.
- Be enthusiastic about our faith.
- Foster Gospel values in our society.
- Promote stewardship as a way of life.
- Say “thank you” to all who give.
- Develop a parish webpage.
- Strengthen interfaith relationships.
- Develop effective intercultural relationships.
- Foster hospitality within the Church community.

Excellent Resources for Study:

Ecclesia in America, by Pope John Paul II
Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States, USCCB

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If you eat this bread, you will live forever. The bread that I will give you is my flesh, which I give so that the world may live.” (John 6:51)

“The Eucharist, as a mystery to be ‘lived’, meets each of us as we are, and makes our concrete existence the place where we experience daily the radical newness of the Christian life.” (Pope Benedict XVI, “Sacramentum Caritatis”)

“In the Eucharist Jesus also makes us witnesses of God’s compassion towards all our brothers and sisters. The Eucharistic mystery thus gives rise to a service of charity towards neighbor, which consists in the very fact that in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know.” (Pope Benedict XVI, “Sacramentum Caritatis”)

In our parish, worship and spirituality mean:

Some Ideas for Parish Implementation:

- Foster spiritual growth by celebrating our Catholic Christianity through the sacraments – especially the Eucharist - in a way to maximize participation.
- Provide opportunities that support individual and communal prayer life.
- Offer opportunities to grow in love and reverence for the Real Presence of the Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.
- Promote everyone’s participation in the liturgical ministries of the parish: greeters, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, sacristans and music ministers.
- Implement the Liturgy of the Hours in the parish.
- Maximize congregational singing through compilation of a common hymnody and rehearsals before Mass.
- Ensure that liturgical catechesis is a component of parish faith formation.
- Champion and demonstrate the connection between liturgy and social justice.

Excellent Resources for Study:

Sacramentum Caritatis by Pope Benedict XVI
Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Vatican II resource that lays the groundwork for the renewal of the liturgy in all respects).

LIFELONG CATECHESIS

“Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end.” (Hebrews 12:2)

“The presentation of the Gospel requires the best efforts of the Church at every level and the tireless dedication of the entire community of the faithful.” (National Directory for Catechesis, USCCB)

“The object of catechesis is communion with Jesus Christ. Catechesis leads people to enter the mystery of Christ, to encounter him, and to discover themselves and the meaning of their lives in him.” (National Directory for Catechesis, USCCB)

In our parish, lifelong catechesis means:

Some Ideas for Parish Implementation:

- Shape all parish religious education not only toward offering information but also toward stimulating formation (building faith community life) and transformation (having a personal encounter and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ).
- Use the RCIA as the model for all parish catechesis.
- Focus all religious education programs on adults and/or intergenerational catechesis.
- Offer a comprehensive, focused curriculum of religious education for the whole parish community that includes: Scripture, the Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, the Liturgical Year, Morality, Social Justice and Prayer and Spirituality.
- Develop Youth Ministry in the parish in a comprehensive way that integrates it with all the parish’s ministries, particularly catechetics and worship.
- Certify and assure the continuing education for the parish catechetical leader, and enter all catechists into certification and continuing education programs.

Excellent Resources for Study:

National Directory for Catechesis, USCCB
Echoes of Faith / Ecos de Fe, RCL Benziger
United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, USCCB
Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us (Leader’s Guide), USCCB

JUSTICE & PEACE

“If you want peace, work for Justice.”
(Pope Paul VI)

“We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all God’s creation.”
(*Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*, USCCB)

“Do not mistreat foreigners who are living in your land. Treat them as you would an Israelite, and love them as you love yourselves. Remember that you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:33-34)

“Jesus’ teaching and example have implications for both our personal lives and the society in which we live. While not in any way minimizing the call of the Gospel for us to transform our personal lives, the study of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching will focus on the transformation of our society – a transformation that begins with our transformed hearts and minds.” (*In the Footsteps of Jesus: Resource Manual on Catholic Social Teaching*, USCCB)

In our parish, justice and peace mean:

Some Ideas for Parish Implementation

- Conduct a workshop on Catholic Social Teaching and select an annual focus.
- Integrate Catholic Social Teaching into all parish life.
- Support legislative and administrative reforms based on Catholic Social Teaching.
- Be social advocates for those in need: i.e., outreach, charity, food, etc.
- Provide education/awareness on immigration issues.
- Directly serve the poor.
- Provide services for the incarcerated.
- Get youth involved in parish social justice endeavors.

Excellent Resources to Study:

- Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, USCCB
- In the Footsteps of Jesus: Resource Manual on Catholic Social Teaching (also video)*, USCCB
- Leader’s Guide to Sharing Catholic Social Teaching*, USCCB

STEWARDSHIP

“Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.” (Luke 12:48)

“God destined the earth and all it contains for all people and nations so that all created things would be shared fairly by all humankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity.” (*The Church in the Modern World, Vatican II*)

“Who is a Christian steward? One who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.” (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, USCCB)

“Stewardship is an expression of discipleship; it is not an option for Catholics.” (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, USCCB)

In our parish, stewardship means:

Some Ideas for Parish Implementation:

- Hold a ministry fair.
- Hold event(s) to honor volunteers.
- Provide resources for stewardship of the earth.
- Develop a local parish Diocesan Ministry Fund plan.
- Develop a program that involves youth.
- Schedule a gifts discernment retreat.
- Visit the homebound.
- Pray for those in need.

Excellent Resource for Study:

- Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response:*
A Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT

As Eucharistic people of the Diocese of Pueblo, guided by Scripture and Tradition, each parish is called to engage in a planning process that guides and inspires members of the parish in building vibrant, faith centered communities that are welcoming and open to new insights for living the faith.

FRAMEWORK FOR PARISH PLANNING

Between February 1, 2009 and May 15, 2009:

- 1. Gather as a Parish Council.**
- 2. Review and/or validate your parish mission statement.**
 - *Mission Statement: Tells who we are and what we do.*
- 3. Reflect on the five themes listed in this brochure.**
- 4. Prioritize the five themes according to what is deemed most important in your parish at this time.**
- 5. Apply the theme(s) to your parish reality.**
 - A. List ways in which your parish is already implementing the theme(s).**
 - B. Identify ways in which your parish could further implement the theme(s).**
- 6. Establish a goal related to each theme.**
 - *Goal: A statement in broad terms regarding what your parish hopes to achieve.*
- 7. Determine the action steps related to this goal.**
 - A. Who will do this?**
 - B. When will this be done?**
 - C. What resources will be necessary?**
- 8. What are your desired outcomes?**

By May 15, 2009:

Send the parish plan to:
Diocesan Pastoral Council Liaison
1001 North Grand Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81003

Representatives from each parish attend a Diocesan gathering to share progress and receive input at the 2010 Ministry Congress.

CALLED TO SERVE



*Whatever you do to the least of my people
that you do unto me.*

Adapted from Matthew 25:40

A GUIDELINE FOR PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING

*For assistance with in-depth parish planning,
contact the Diocesan Pastoral Council Liaison
800-354-2729, ext 114; 719-544-9861, ext 114 (Pueblo).*