

Better Together: A Pastoral Plan for our parishes and our diocese

Using the teachings of the Church, especially from the Second Vatican Council and Pope Francis, our diocese is embarking on a pastoral plan to help our communities deepen their ability to engage in charity and mercy, embrace a stewardship spirituality, and empower an understanding of the co-responsibility of laity and clergy in this effort. As Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*, "The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be 'the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.'" Bishop Shawn McKnight

Diocesan Pastoral Plan

Zoom Meeting, Monroe City

September 12, 2020

"Our diocese is embarking on a pastoral plan to help our parishes,
embrace a stewardship spirituality
empower co-responsibility of laity and clergy
foster personal experiences of charity and mercy"

with these words Bishop Shaun McKnight opened the meeting of parish council presidents and diocesan staff on September 12, 2020.

What is a pastoral plan?

A pastoral plan contains the vision, actions, and outcomes that parishioners want to work toward together for the next 3 years. Both the parish and the diocese have pastoral plans.

What is the pastoral plan process?

The diocese set the overall vision which is to embrace a stewardship spirituality, empower co-responsibility of laity and clergy, and foster personal experiences of charity and mercy.

Our parish council after hearing from parishioners wrote our parish goals which were submitted to the diocese.

Pastoral plans from all parishes were reviewed and the goals from the parishes are becoming the diocesan plan which will be shared during Advent this year.

A parish small group program to help us all become persons who live the spirituality of stewardship will be coming to parishes in 2021.

Stewardship spirituality is built on the pillars of hospitality, prayer, formation, and service.

Opportunities for growth were also discussed including.

1. Youth having "a place at the table" to bringing them into the mainstream of the parish.
2. Connection to parishioners who are not linked to parish resources through technology.
3. Parish websites which have plain language links similar to the following, "I want to come back to Church" or "I want to baptize my child".
4. Explore the network of Catholic Charities Ambassadors and discern is this an opportunity for our parish.
5. Explore and respond to the question, "Are we a welcoming parish?".

What is our parish pastoral plan?

The goals of our parish pastoral plan are.

1. Meeting the needs of Christians locally, regionally, and globally.
2. Faith formation
3. Using our gifts and talents

Our parish commissions will meet with parishioners to decide what we will do together to meet these goals.