

2017-2019 Pastoral Initiatives

Summary Document

At the heart of each of these pastoral priorities and concrete initiatives is a desire to help the people of western Oregon live in a manner worthy of their call in Jesus Christ. These initiatives are primarily focused on leading Catholics to a deeper faith and relationship with Christ and the Church so that we may become missionary disciples and compelling witnesses of the Gospel who bring the saving message of Jesus Christ to the world.

These concrete pastoral initiatives should be seen in the context of the Church's overall mission of evangelization. While not exclusive of the many other pastoral needs which require ongoing attention, these initiatives are intended to be points of special focus and unity for our life and work together in western Oregon throughout the upcoming three years. While the Pastoral Center has particular responsibility for implementing these initiatives, it is anticipated that Catholic communities will lend support and begin their own creative work to implement the initiatives where they apply at the local and regional levels.

PASTORAL PRIORITY: Catechesis and Faith Formation

Initiative A: Provide comprehensive formation and training for catechists and make the formation programs more readily available across the Archdiocese.

Initiative B: Create catechetical standards, ensure good quality instruction in the faith.

Initiative C: Support parents in their role as primary teachers of the faith.

Initiative D: Provide access to sound catechetical materials and programs for various language groups and special needs communities.

Initiative E: Provide tools to Catholics for ongoing faith formation and encouragement to live a life of faith in Christ.

PASTORAL PRIORITY: Divine Worship

Initiative A: Improve quality of liturgical music. Provide education & support for liturgical musicians. Train and inspire music ministers.

Initiative B: Increase the knowledge, reverence and effectiveness of all liturgical ministers.

Initiative C: Increase the lay faithful's knowledge of and appreciation for the Mass.



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Initiative D: Promote more consistency in the Mass experience and ensure that it is in accord with the Church's faithful celebration of the sacred liturgy. Provide liturgical education and training for the clergy and laity.

Initiative E: Promote a culture of hospitality in our parishes.

PASTORAL PRIORITY: Marriage & Family Life

Initiative A: Prepare Catholics for entering into the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Initiative B: Assist and support couples in struggling marriages. Reach out to those who are divorced. Reach out to those divorced and civilly-remarried; assist them and encourage them to approach the tribunal so they can return to the sacraments.

Initiative C: Provide resources to parishes to assist them in helping couples build and maintain solid marriages and raise children in faith-filled environments.

Initiative D: Provide resources to parishes to assist them in providing ongoing support to young married couples and families during their first five years of marriage.

Initiative E: Provide guidance and resources to Catholics on the issues of same sex marriage, same sex attraction, gender identity and the LGBTQ culture. Reach out in love and support with respect for the dignity of each person, with the goal of leading them to a full life in Christ. Clearly articulate the Church's position and teach Catholics how to provide pastoral care and respond to these issues in our own families and beyond.

PASTORAL PRIORITY: Vocations

Initiative A: Get parishes energized about vocations by hearing the real-life stories of men pursuing a vocation to the priesthood.

Initiative B: Provide opportunities for lay people to encounter those living out religious vocations in order to increase vocational awareness and inspire deeper faith.

Initiative C: Increase awareness of the various religious orders in the Archdiocese.

Initiative D: Provide comprehensive formation on discerning a vocation to Catholics of all ages. Provide resources to help young adults discern their vocations.

Initiative E: Train and equip youth and young adult ministers to help others properly discern their vocations.



PASTORAL PRIORITY: Works of Mercy

- Initiative A:** Increase participation in local works of mercy programs. Evaluate and raise awareness about the works of mercy programs throughout the Archdiocese.
- Initiative B:** Create a culture of mercy at the vicariate and local level that will inspire servant leadership and witness to Christ through the works of mercy. Identify needs, improve existing outreach, and develop new outreach.
- Initiative C:** Identify and promote the corporal and spiritual works of mercy as an integral part of family life.
- Initiative D:** Expand prison ministry. Reach out to inmates, families of inmates, victims, and those re-entering society.
- Initiative E:** Raise awareness of the growing epidemic of suicide. Assist with suicide prevention, and promote a loving response from the Church when suicide occurs.

PASTORAL PRIORITY: Catholic Young Adult Ministry

- Initiative A:** Establish networks of support for Catholic young adults whether in school, working, single, married, or married with children so they can live out their faith more fully.
- Initiative B:** Increase participation and deepen the interest and appreciation of young adults in the Mass.
- Initiative C:** Encourage and work to increase the involvement of young adults in parish life during their student experience and promote continued involvement beyond graduation.
- Initiative D:** Involve young adults from various stages of life, in the development of Archdiocesan outreach programs that will meet young adult needs.
- Initiative E:** Create excitement and engagement in the Catholic young adult community by gathering them together, building relationships, and helping them to support each other and grow spiritually.