



PLANS OF HOPE

HOUMA-THIBODAUX PARISH PLANNING

DIOCESAN PLANNING PRIORITY NO. 1: SUNDAY

CHAPTER 10

RESOURCE E



Sample goal with some things to think about

SUNDAY GOAL

- We will complete a three-fold prioritized plan for all weekend liturgies by July 1, 2021

MAPPING OUT A PLAN TO GET US THERE

Year by year benchmarks for small group participation

1. By July 1, 2019 have a fully functioning Homily Preparation Team assisting with homily preparation
2. By July 1, 2020 have a fully functioning Guest Services ministry assisting with hospitality
3. By July 1, 2021 have a skilled and prayerful music ministry at all weekend Masses

Preaching

1. Recruit and form core team to serve as Homily Preparation Team. Complete a period of liturgical and theological formation with the new Homily Preparation Team so as to understand the role of preaching within the liturgical context.
2. Evaluate the availability and quality of resources needed by the Pastor and/or Associate Pastor for homily preparation.

Sample timeline of collaboration between Pastor and/or Associate Pastor and the Homily Preparation Team

1. Sunday night: Homily Preparation Team emails Pastor and/or Associate Pastor honest feedback regarding the homily preached that morning or during the previous day's Vigil Mass.
2. Mondays
 - Pastor and/or Associate Pastor reads the Scripture readings for the following weekend, six days later
 - Pastor and/or Associate Pastor listens to, or reads, homily preparation resources provided by the Diocese (Dr. Brant Pitre, Office of Parish Support, etc.)
 - Homily Preparation Team practices Lectio Divina with the upcoming Scripture readings.
3. Tuesdays: Pastor and/or Associate Pastor narrows down Monday's commentary research into one sentence. What are homily resource experts saying the *core* message is? In one sentence, what is the theme from the readings?
4. Wednesday: Pastor meets with the Homily Preparation Team on Wednesday afternoon.
 - The Homily Preparation Team shares the fruit of their Lectio Divina
 - The Pastor and/or Associate Pastor shares with the Homily Preparation Team the theme of the Scripture readings as gleaned from the commentaries
 - The Pastor and/or Associate Pastor leads the Homily Preparation Team in a "Discernment Rosary" as everyone listens to what God is saying to them regarding the homily
 - The Homily Preparation Team shares concrete examples with the Pastor and/or Associate Pastor, explaining how the laity might experience this "theme" in their everyday life
5. Thursday and Friday: Pastor and/or Associate Pastor finishes the homily preparation.

Guest Services

1. Recruit and form core team to lead Guest Services ministry.
2. Guest Services creates new initiatives and/or edit existing ministries so that people feel welcomed and at home.
3. Guest Services recruits, forms, and oversees a hospitality team designed most effectively create an environment of welcome.
4. Guest Services works with the current ushers providing formation and on-going assessment.
5. Priests and Deacons make intentional efforts at the weekend Liturgy to help cultivate in parishioners an attitude of welcome and hospitality.
6. Establish a master facility plan, including intentional edits to the vestibule so as to foster a sense of welcome, as well as maximally provide communication and information to parishioners in a prompt and personal way.
7. Assess parish staff hours so as to ensure, if possible, an informational “presence” during highest traffic (weekend liturgies, etc.)

Liturgical Music

1. Consider which one of the weekend Masses would be best or most impacted with an updated music ministry group. Identify this Mass as the “pilot Mass”.
2. Discern well who is to inevitably lead the music ministry at the “pilot Mass”. **Please note:** *this may or may not be the leader of the group at the present moment. Leadership is essential. It is **highly recommended** that you not proceed with attempts at renewal of liturgical music with the wrong leader. Identifying the “right fit” leadership is essential.*
3. With the identified leader, recruit additional members of the music ministry at the “pilot Mass”.
4. Complete a period of liturgical and theological formation with the new core team of the music ministry at the “pilot Mass”.
5. Through the liturgical and theological formation, identify aspects of “branding” your vision for liturgical music. An example of a “branding”: “Our brand for liturgical music at St. Cecelia Parish is the three Ss: *sacred, simple, singable.*”
6. Establish liturgical planning committee or some process for music selection. Consider a rotating “seasonal list” of songs to aid in musician ability to play with good quality and congregation familiarity with songs.
7. Establish new recruitment strategies. *For example:* Identify at least one skilled musician from your parish and offer “come and play” nights, as an opportunity to cultivate a sense of prayer and creativity, as well as to help identify giftedness and cultivate use of those gifts.
8. Establish a new standard of excellence, rehearsal and prayer times together for all involved in music ministry.
9. Implement all new aspects of liturgical music at the “pilot Mass”. Continue to evaluate and refine implementation at the “pilot Mass” for six months.
10. Taking one Mass at time, repeat the above steps for all remaining Masses.