



June 24, 2019

To: Parish Leadership & Staff

From: Deacon Kevin Welch
Director of Pastoral Ministries & Evangelization

RE: Support for Parish Calendaring, Renewal and Evangelization

The Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Portland exists to support and serve parishes and Catholic organizations as we work together to bring all people of Western Oregon to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

Your parish brings to the universal Church your own gifts and charisms. Our shepherd, Archbishop Sample, has given us his vision of a unified local church coming together to place all of these gifts and charisms at the service of our Lord's commission to go out and make disciples of all nations.

This unity is more important than ever, as the obstacles to evangelization are increasingly evident all around us: we inhabit a post-Christian culture that often considers the Gospel irrelevant and the life-giving truths of our faith unreasonable. Parish leaders know there is work to do if we are to help lead others to heaven – and nothing less than *the love of Christ impels us* (2 Cor 5:14) to respond to this call of evangelization.

The urgency of this call has inspired a movement among parish leaders who want to see their parishes become places from where the faithful are sent, and not just gather. In this spirit, attached are fundamental objectives that are common to parishes across the country, who are successfully moving from viability to vibrancy, by building a *culture of evangelization*.

These objectives flow from the treasury of the universal church and delineate the normative aspects of an evangelizing community. Parishes can learn from one another, even if they differ in size, cultural demographics, resources or location. We are called to support each other, building vibrant parishes beyond ministries and programs, no matter how successful those might be.

As you plan for fiscal year 2019-2020, please review the attached preliminary calendar of events scheduled by the Pastoral Center. Additionally, our staff is available to support via on-site visits, Zoom video conferencing, and providing the most current information, resources and events on our updated website: <http://evangelization.archdpx.org>.

Let us work together to build parishes that reflect the beauty of our timeless mission, creating centers of constant missionary outreach along the way.



Every parish in the Archdiocese of Portland has an extended pastoral support team. Both clergy and lay parish leaders now have an intentional channel to receive straightforward solutions and assistance. In addition to removing any unnecessary burdens and providing the best tools and training, we hope to provide you with a fellow disciple who can help you tackle any issue or question you are facing. Together, let us bring the people of Western Oregon together to pray, think and act as one Church.

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Still not sure who can help?

Just give us a call and we'll get you where you need to go. 503-233-8395



Objectives of a Vibrant Parish

in a Culture of Evangelization

DIVINE WORSHIP AND THE SACRAMENTS

- The Sunday Holy Eucharist is the center of all parish life.
- Homilies are well prepared, relevant and challenging.
- Liturgical music draws parishioners into the reverent, beautiful and sacred.
- Liturgical ministers are formed and prepared to fulfill their role in service.
- Sacrament of Confession is foundational to the parishioner's spiritual life.
- Sacramental participation nourishes the life of the parish beyond Sunday Mass.

AUTHENTIC AND PRAYERFUL COMMUNITY LIFE

- Parish has a culture of invitation and serves the needs of all ages, cultures and life stages.
- A culture of hospitality exists throughout all liturgies, ministries and among staff/volunteers.
- Maximizes touchpoints with inactive Catholics, people seeking God, and the unchurched.
- The parish fosters dialogue and cooperation with other parishes and other faith communities.
- A comprehensive communications strategy keeps parishioners informed and connected.
- A culture of small groups nurtures fellowship, pastoral care, formation, and discipleship.
- A reliance on prayer is central to parish life, as parishioners pray with and for each other.

ONGOING FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

- Parishioners are called to a personal and dynamic relationship with Jesus.
- The Word of God is studied and woven into the daily life of the parish.
- Formation for all faith stages: kerygma, conversion, discipleship, communion and mission.
- Strong Catholic identity is experienced and expressed by adults, youth and children.
- Families - the domestic church - actively hand on the faith to future generations.
- Ongoing ministries and retreats for couples, men, women, teens and children.
- Continuous conversion leads to renewal and training of lay leadership.

COMMITMENT TO WORKS OF MERCY

- The parish assists parishioners discern their gifts of the Holy Spirit in service and ministry.
- A missionary zeal is lived out in works of mercy in the parish, wider community and beyond.
- Parishioners embrace the whole breadth of Catholic Social Teaching.
- Clergy and lay leaders speak on the dignity of all life; from conception to natural death.
- Portion of operating budget set for an outreach fund to support parishioner involved charities.
- Collaboration among parish outreach ministries- i.e. KofC, St Vincent DePaul, school
- Parishioners care for the elderly, homebound, incarcerated, people with special needs, sick, grieving, separated, divorced, those struggling with addictions and all their families.



FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

- Parishioner's lifestyle is marked by enthusiastic generosity of time, talent, and treasure.
- Financial giving is proportionate; sufficient to support and increase ministries.
- Parish facilities meet the needs of parish ministry.
- Parishioner generosity extends to special collections outside of direct parish mission.
- Parish collaborates with services of the Archdiocesan Office of Stewardship & Development.
- Leadership communicates a "road map" for ongoing stewardship education and formation.

PASSION FOR VOCATIONS

- The universal call to holiness is incorporated into all ministry activities.
- Men and women are invited to consider the particular way God is calling them to holiness.
- Vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life are coming from the parish.
- A parish vocation ministry is equipped to encourage and promote vocations in the family.
- Parish honors clergy, consecrated and marriage vocations throughout the year.
- Priestly vocations are inspired by the joyful witness of the pastor.

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

- A clear parish vision is aligned with the Archbishop and the universal Church.
- The pastoral plan is continually evaluated to meet the parish mission.
- The pastor collaborates with, and delegates to, a thoughtfully selected leadership team.
- Leadership team interacts with authenticity, compassion and conviction.
- All staff are bought into the vision and the team exhibits openness to the Holy Spirit.
- Leadership addresses difficult situations and prayerfully makes the tough decisions.
- Clergy are connected fraternally with each other and the Archbishop.

Contact us at <https://evangelization.archdpdx.org>

Sources:

Parish Catalyst
CARA Reports
Amazing Parish
Divine Renovation
Catherine of Siena Institute