Resources for Pastoral Planning

Discerning the spiritual trajectory of your community

February 11, 2023
This talk

Resources and best practices

• Enrich our understanding of pastoral planning as one of the core tasks at hand for pastoral councils.

• Increase your awareness of available resources and practices at your disposal. Anytime. Already funded.

• Conversation time for taking your community to the next level.
For today

About Pastoral Planning

Resources

Next Steps
Planning, in a nutshell

**Destination Point**
Where do we want to be?

**Starting Point**
Where are we?

**Action**
How do we get there?
Strategic planning, demystified

The **Vision** describes success in a specific timeframe and is a milestone toward the **Mission**

**Destination Point**
Where do we want to be?

**Purpose**
Why B? (and not somewhere else)

The **Mission** defines both the enduring purpose and the ultimate organizational aspiration

**Starting Point**
Where are we? Why are we here?

A comprehensive **Assessment** includes current position and forces of change

**Action**
How do we get there?

The **Strategic Plan** defines a set of initiatives for moving the organization towards its Vision and closer to fulfilling its Mission.
Not about (beautiful) statements

If Aristotle had been a Planner...

Without Final and Efficient (Moving) Causes in place, the organization will drift, responding to the mix of forces of change in the organization and the environment.
Pastoral Planning is a series of analyses, reflections, and discernments - carried out by the leadership - oriented to determine the current situation, desired state, and crucial activities for the spiritual reality of a faith community.

To successfully engage in this task, leaders need **Technical** and **Spiritual** elements.
For today

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Next steps
Seven steps for pastoral planning

1. **Reinvigorate** your Parish Pastoral Council.
2. **Formalize** your pastoral planning effort
3. Begin every meeting with **prayer**.
4. Select the appropriate **objectives** for your parish by **consensus**.
5. Define an **action plan** for each objective.
6. **Document** your plans.
7. **Review, approve** and **activate** your plans.
Assessing the starting point

**Mission Insite**
Updated analysis describing the demographic reality within your parish boundaries. Great for describing the territory.

**Pastoral Snapshot**
Updated pastoral description of the Word, Worship, Community, and Service realities for a specific parish and its progress versus the previous year. A reference to other parishes in similar situations, the deanery and the archdiocese. Great for describing if the situation of the parish is what you want.

**Synodal Listening**
A qualitative resource to identify key topics for the parishioners and target groups. Great for identifying root causes of events.

**Surveys**
Quantitative resources to describe sizes and proportions of key topics. Great for estimating immediate responses to specific initiatives.
Pastoral snapshot
A synodal exercise, the journey of inclusion
“Oh, we know what’s happening already”
Exclusionary forces occur too

“Christ! I hope we don’t do that.”
Discerning your destination point

Parish Mission: A PPC process to identify and define a unique and exciting purpose for your Catholic community.

Spirituality of Communion: The way in which the history and ongoing community interactions refract the unique light of the Holy Spirit.

Retreat: Intentionally separated time for collectively engaging in deeper dialogues with Our Lord related to our personal call and shared mission.
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Table conversations

What do we need to understand our current state better and deeper?

*Find specific action items.*

Is our Mission inspiring?

*How do we know that?*

Where are we in the planning cycle?

*Definition, implantation, update.*
Let’s go and set our communities on fire!

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