



Strategic Pastoral Planning Informational Packet

May-July 2023



Catholic Diocese *of* Memphis





Strategic Pastoral Planning Letter from Bishop David P. Talley



May 12, 2023

Dear Faithful,

The Church in West Tennessee has been on a journey for the past four years. We celebrated 50 years of history as a Diocese with our first ever Eucharistic Congress, bringing together all 47 Parishes and Missions in a joyful celebration of the source and summit of our faith. We proudly processed with our Lord through the streets of Memphis. We also gathered to prayerfully listen, reflect and share dialogue by participating in the Synod for a Synodal Church.

We also had to endure the lingering effects of a pandemic which necessitated the short-term closure of our churches and schools as well as the personal decision to mask or not mask. We learned firsthand, by its short-term absence, how important receiving the Eucharist is for our body and souls and we rejoiced together in His return to our lives.

United in Faith, our first Diocesan Capital Campaign in more than 20 years, was conducted with pledges now exceeding \$30 million for Parish, Mission and Diocesan needs. The generosity of the parishioners of West Tennessee has shown through, even during a pandemic.

Truly, our Catholic Diocese of Memphis in West Tennessee has demonstrated the wisdom of: *¡Adelante!* Going Forward Together, On Mission...That All May Be One (John 17:21). But what comes next? How does our Diocese go forward in bringing Jesus Christ to all those between the rivers? We are embarking on a Strategic Pastoral Plan. This tool will allow us, as an entire Diocese, to focus on those questions for the next five years and answer them in an organized, intentional and inclusive manner.

The program of pastoral revitalization that is envisioned for the next two years seeks to respond to three fundamental questions:

- **Where are we today?** What are the challenges and opportunities we face as the Church of Jesus Christ in West Tennessee in the third decade of the 2020s? (Attentive Listening)
- **Where is God calling us to be?** Where is the Holy Spirit leading us? (Prayerful Discernment)
- **How will we get there together?** What concrete actions must we take to arrive at the destination planned for us in God's Providence? (Collaborative Engagement)

All members of the Catholic community in West Tennessee will be invited and encouraged to participate in this planning process--please see the next page for the Listening Session Schedule.

As we journey together in prayer, reflection and action, we trust that the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) will accompany us--to teach, guide and empower us to build a future full of hope for all the people we are called to serve in our local communities and beyond.

Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will guide us as we listen to God's Word, and to one another, as we seek to discern God's will for our Church in the years ahead. May our Lord give each of us "A New Heart" as we strive to serve God's Holy people in West Tennessee and beyond. I am yours

In the light and love of the Lord,

Most Reverend David P. Talley
Sixth Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Memphis

Catholic Diocese of Memphis

STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLAN 2022-2024



Phase I

Preparation

Advent
2022

Easter
2023

Phase II

Listening, Survey
& Vision

Easter
2023

Advent
2023

Phase III

Plan
Development

Solemnity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
January 2024

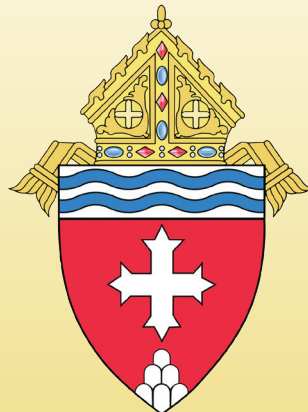
Advent
2024

Phase IV

Implementation

2025

2028





Strategic Pastoral Planning Listening Session Schedule



No.	Day	Date	Parish or Location	Group	Time	Language
1	Wednesday	May 31	Immaculate Conception-UC	Northern Deanery	7 pm	English
2	Thursday	June 1	St. Mary-Jackson	SE Deanery	7 pm	English
3	Thursday	June 1	St. Mary-Jackson	SE Deanery	7 pm	Spanish
4	Thursday	June 8	The Catholic Center	Principal Meeting	8:30 am	English
5	Wednesday	June 21	Incarnation	Central Deanery	7 pm	Spanish
6	Thursday	June 22	The Cathedral	Western Deanery	7 pm	Spanish
7	Thursday	June 22	The Cathedral	Western Deanery	7 pm	English
8	Monday	June 26	St. Louis	Central Deanery	7 pm	English
9	Wednesday	June 28	St. Ann	Central Deanery	7 pm	Spanish
10	Wednesday	July 12	St. Louis	Ministry Leaders	6 pm	English
11	Friday	July 14	St. Benedict at Auburndale	Youth	TBD	English
12	Wednesday	July 26	Catholic Charities Office	Catholic Charities	TBD	English



Deaneries



Central

Very Rev. Joey Kaump, V.F.

Ascension
Holy Rosary
Holy Spirit
Incarnation
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Nativity
Resurrection
St. Ann
St. Brigid
St. Francis of Assisi
St. James
St. Louis
St. Michael
St. William

Southeastern

Very Rev. James Martell, V.F.

St. Andrew
St. Regina
St. Mary-Bolivar
St. Jude-Selmer
St. Mary-Jackson
St. John-Brownsville
Our Lady of Guadalupe
St. Mary-Savannah
Our Lady of the Lake
St. Philip

Western

Very Rev. Juan Antonio Romo-Romo, S.V.D., V.F.

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Our Lady of Sorrows
Sacred Heart
St. Anne
St. Augustine
St. John-Memphis
St. Joseph
St. Mary-Memphis
St. Patrick
St. Paul
St. Peter
St. Theresa the Little Flower
Blessed Sacrament

Northern

Very Rev. Robert Ballman, V.F.

Holy Angels
Holy Cross
Immaculate Conception-Union City
Sacred Heart-Humboldt
St. Matthew
St. Alphonsus
Ave Maria
St. Jude-Martin
St. Mary-Camden
Holy Family



Strategic Planning Pastoral Planning Frequently Asked Questions



1. Why are we planning?

The Church in West Tennessee has been on a journey for the past four years. We celebrated 50 years of history as a Diocese with our first ever Eucharistic Congress, bringing together all 47 Parishes and Missions in a joyful celebration of the source and summit of our faith. We proudly processed with our Lord through the streets of Memphis. We also gathered to prayerfully listen, reflect, and share dialogue by participating in the Synod for a Synodal Church.

We also had to endure the lingering effects of a pandemic which necessitated the short-term closure of our churches and schools as well as the personal decision to mask or not mask. We learned firsthand, by its short-term absence, how important the receipt of the Eucharist is for our body and souls, and we rejoiced together in its return to our lives.

United in Faith, the first diocesan capital campaign in more than 20 years was conducted, with pledges now exceeding \$30 million for Parish, Mission and Diocesan needs. The generosity of the parishioners of West Tennessee has shown through--even during a pandemic.

Truly, our Catholic Diocese of Memphis in West Tennessee has demonstrated the wisdom of: *¡Adelante!* Going Forward Together, On Mission... That All May Be One (John 17:21). But what comes next? How does our Diocese go forward in bringing Jesus Christ to all those between the rivers? We are embarking on a Strategic Pastoral Plan. This tool will allow us, as an entire Diocese, to focus on those questions for the next five years and answer them in an organized, intentional and inclusive manner.

The purpose of this planning initiative is to invoke the guidance and assistance of the Holy Spirit in the Diocese's efforts to apply the pastoral principles found in the Gospels and in the living Tradition of the Church to the concrete circumstances of life in West Tennessee today.

2. What are the main elements of this planning process?

The program of pastoral revitalization that is envisioned for the next two years seeks to respond to three fundamental questions:

- **Where are we today?** What are the challenges and opportunities we face as the Church of Jesus Christ in West Tennessee in the third decade of the 2020s?
(Attentive Listening)
- **Where is God calling us to be?** Where is the Holy Spirit leading us?
(Prayerful Discernment)
- **How will we get there together?** What concrete actions must we take to arrive at the destination planned for us in God's Providence?
(Collaborative Engagement)

3. Who is involved in this planning process?

All members of the Catholic community in West Tennessee will be invited and encouraged to participate in this planning process. As we journey together in prayer, reflection, and action, we trust that the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) will accompany us--to teach, guide and empower us to build a future full of hope for all the people we are called to serve in our local communities and beyond.

A diverse, broadly representative Strategic Pastoral Planning Committee has been appointed by Bishop David P. Talley to guide the planning process in collaboration with representatives from all four deaneries in West Tennessee. The Strategic Pastoral Planning Committee will work with several task forces identified to draft action plans and accountability for priorities areas of the plan. In the end, we anticipate that more than 1000 members of the Catholic community in West Tennessee will be involved in shaping this plan for the future.

4. How long will it take?

This two-year pastoral planning initiative is divided into four phases:

- **Phase I (Advent 2022 through Easter 2023).** Involved the application of successful principles of pastoral planning to the practical circumstances of parishes, schools, and diocesan ministries here in the Diocese of Memphis. The resulting program will take into consideration the demands placed on our priests and other parish, school, and diocesan ministry leaders as they carry out their daily responsibilities. Planning for the future should not become a burden. It should help to set priorities that can make decision-making easier in complex situations.
- **Phase II (Easter through Advent 2023).** Involves a diocesan-wide program of attentive listening and prayerful discernment to address the questions: Where Are We Now? Where is the Holy Spirit Leading Us in the Years Ahead? How will we get there together? This initiative will seek to engage Clergy, Consecrated Religious, and Lay Faithful in all regions of the Diocese in a process of prayer, attentive listening and dialogue. The culmination of this phase of the process will be a Vision Statement developed by Bishop Talley in response to the ideas, hopes, challenges and concerns expressed during the discernment process.
- **Phase III (Solemnity of the BVM through Advent 2024).** Involves the collaborative engagement of a team of leaders appointed by the Bishop to develop detailed action plans designed to accomplish pastoral priorities identified in the Vision Statement. The Strategic Pastoral Planning Committee will be assisted by task forces representing different areas of ministry within the Diocese. This process will involve multiple meetings of the planning team and task forces assigned to draft specific action plans. After consulting with members of the Presbyteral Council, Finance Council, and the leaders of other diocesan organizations, the Planning Committee will recommend a 3–5-year Pastoral Plan to Bishop Talley for his approval and implementation.
- **Phase IV (2025–2028).** Once the Pastoral Plan for our Diocese has been approved by the Bishop, an Implementation Team will be appointed to review the plan's progress on a quarterly basis and to ensure that the actions specified are either implemented or changed as needed to keep the Plan effective and up to date.

5. What do we expect the final outcomes to be?

While we cannot predict the exact outcomes of a process led by the Holy Spirit, we are confident that if our efforts are based in prayer, attentive listening, dialogue, and genuine discernment, the results will be in keeping with God's plan for His holy people in West Tennessee. Thus, we take to heart the following words of Pope St. John Paul II:

We are certainly not seduced by the naive expectation that, faced with the great challenges of our time, we shall find some magic formula. No, we shall not be saved by a formula but by a Person, and the assurance which he gives us: I am with you!

It is not therefore a matter of inventing a "new program". The program already exists; it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition, it is the same as ever. Ultimately, it has its center in Christ himself, who is to be known, loved and imitated, so that in him we may live the life of the Trinity, and with him transform history until its fulfillment in the heavenly Jerusalem. This is a program which does not change with shifts of times and cultures, even though it takes account of time and culture for the sake of true dialogue and effective communication. This program for all times is our program for the Third Millennium. But it must be translated into pastoral initiatives adapted to the circumstances of each community.

What awaits us therefore is an exciting work of pastoral revitalization – a work involving all of us. (Pope St. John Paul II, Novo Millennio Ineunte #29)

6. How can we guarantee that our plans will be implemented?

One of the chief dangers of any planning process is that the many hours of hard work and creative thinking will be ultimately unproductive—a nice looking document that “sits on a shelf” and is not properly implemented. To guard against this, an Implementation Team appointed by the Bishop at the conclusion of this two-year process will meet quarterly to review the plan’s implementation and to assure that progress is being made and to determine whether any adjustments are needed. An annual report of the plan’s implementation will be delivered to the people of West Tennessee using various communications media.

7. What will this cost?

Every effort is being made to keep the costs associated with this process at a minimum and within the annual administrative budget of the Catholic Diocese of Memphis which is overseen by the Diocesan Finance Council. Individual action plans that are developed for inclusion in the Strategic Plan will include estimated costs along with a designated revenue source.

8. How can I help?

There are three ways you can participate in this important planning process:

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us as we listen to God’s Word, and to one another, and as we seek to discern God’s will for our Church in the years ahead.
- Attend one of the Listening Sessions (see accompanying schedule).
- Complete the Online Survey which will be available on the Diocese’s Website at: from May 31 through July 31, 2023.

May our Lord give each of us “A New Heart” as we strive to serve God’s holy people in West Tennessee and beyond.

Catholic Diocese of Memphis Strategic Pastoral Planning Committee

Bishop David P. Talley, Chair, Erin Archer, Lysette Candia, Fr. Jacek Kowal, Sam Mauck, Rick Ouellette, Megan Rogers, Margaret Scott, Fr. Jolly Sebastian, M.C.B.S, Fr. Keith Stewart, V.G., Anthony Thompson, Sergio Vasquez, David Zaleski