



Catholic Diocese of Memphis

5825 Shelby Oaks Drive
Memphis, TN 38134-7316
(901) 373-1200

August 16, 2023

Dear Faithful,

As our Diocese's Strategic Pastoral Planning Summary Report is being developed, based on all the excellent feedback from our Sessions, Interviews and Survey, see the following outline of our entire process as a reminder of the communications shared in our most recent update letter sent out on August 1 ([English](#) - [Spanish](#)). If you have any questions about the process, phases, timeline or more, please let us know. Thank you.

Phase I

November 2022-April 2023

- Prepare and distribute all documents associated with Listening Sessions, Individual Interviews and Online Survey to our Clergy, Strategic Pastoral Planning Committee, and other Diocese leaders.

Phase II

May 2023-July 2023

- Encourage involvement in our outreach efforts from all parishioners and community members across our Diocese through letters, videos and other information from our Bishop and Clergy.

The following results from our outreach efforts will be the basis in developing a Strategic Pastoral Planning Summary Report.

- 12 Listening Sessions (8 English and 4 Spanish) that involved more than 500 people in all four Deaneries in West Tennessee.
- 25 Individual Interviews with members of the Strategic Pastoral Planning Committee and other Pastoral leaders representing diverse communities in the Diocese.
- An Online Survey that more than 2,000 people participated in.

August 2023-September 2023

- Develop a Strategic Pastoral Planning Summary Report based on what was heard in the Listening Sessions, Interviews, and Survey.

October 2023

- Share the Summary Report with all parishioners across West Tennessee with an invitation to make additional comments and suggestions.

November 2023

- Prepare a Vision Statement based of the Summary Report and an updated Demographics Report—led by the Bishop with the Strategic Pastoral Planning Committee.

December 2023

- Publish the Diocese's Vision Statement across all 47 Parishes and Missions in West Tennessee during the Advent season.

Phase III

January 2024-December 2024

- Develop detailed action plans designed to achieve our Vision Statement—led by the Strategic Pastoral Planning Committee with a few Task Teams across our Diocese’s Ministries.
 - The process will involve Committee and Task Team meetings during the first six to eight months of 2024.
 - After consulting with our Presbyteral and Finance Councils, and other Diocesan organizations, the Committee will recommend a three-to-five-year Strategic Pastoral Plan to the Bishop for final approval and implementation in January 2025.

Phase IV

January 2025

- Implement our Strategic Pastoral Plan

Our Diocese trusts that the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are accompanying us—to teach, guide, and empower us to build a future full of hope for all the people of West Tennessee.

Please continue to pray for the success of this important Strategic Pastoral Planning process.

Strategic Pastoral Planning Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God,
help make us one in mind and heart,
as we continue to go forward, together, on Mission.
Lord, give us open hands, to better serve you in others.
An open mind, to better carry out your call.
An open heart, to better love you in others.
Give us A New Heart, For Our Mission.
And lead us, your people in West Tennessee,
the Catholic Diocese of Memphis, into eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen