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## Strategic Pastoral Planning Vision & Priorities



**Catholic Diocese** *of* **Memphis**

December 2023



## **Catholic Diocese of Memphis Strategic Pastoral Planning Process**

### **December 11, 2023: The Second Week of Advent Season**

The members of our Diocese's Strategic Pastoral Planning Committee, chaired by Bishop David P. Talley, have reflected prayerfully on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, and hopes for the future expressed by Catholics in all regions of West Tennessee.

Based on this information, and confident that the Holy Spirit is at work among us, we propose the following **Vision** and **Priorities** to work on in 2024 for the pastoral revitalization of the Church in West Tennessee. Then, after we have shared the Vision and Priorities with all, we will implement our Diocese's Strategic Pastoral Plan in 2025 for the next three-to-five years that will include a Vision Statement, a Mission Statement, and the six Priorities--each with an Action Plan.

#### **Vision**

Our Vision for the Church in West Tennessee, in recognizing our common Baptismal vocation, is that all of us...individuals, families, churches, and communities...will dedicate our lives and discipleship to our love for God and for one another (Matthew 22:36-40).

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God (John 1:18). He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He, the Lord, is the head of the body, the Church (Colossians 1:15-18), and to the extent that we can conform our lives to Him, the Church in West Tennessee will thrive and grow, in sanctity and in service.

To fall in love with Jesus Christ is to cast off sin and all self-centeredness--and live for God and neighbor (Mark 1:15). This love requires repentance and an ongoing conversion of heart. If we truly seek to love as Jesus taught us, to love as He loved (John 13:34), the future will be bright regardless of the challenges we must face.

Jesus revealed the face of God and continues to identify Himself with humanity. We catch-sight of the Lord when we love as Jesus loves. We sense His Presence within and among us when we proclaim His Gospel, when we worship Him in the Holy Eucharist, when our minds and hearts are conformed to Him, when we feed the hungry and clothe the naked and comfort the lonely (Matthew 25:31-46), when we are responsible stewards of all of God's gifts, and when we grow in holiness through active participation in the life of the Church He founded.

As the love of God continues to be poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5), we will look to the future with the eyes of faith and hope, and we will see individuals, families, local communities and our parishes working together to build up the Kingdom of God in West Tennessee.

## Priorities

We believe when God's love fills the hearts of His holy people, remarkable things happen:

- **Eucharistic Life.** We will worship the Triune God with joyful hearts and with a renewed devotion to the Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ, given by the Lord on Holy Thursday and handed on to us in and through the Apostolic Church. We will celebrate all the Sacraments with reverence and with an enthusiasm born of the Holy Spirit's presence among us.
- **Evangelization.** We will proclaim the Gospel of Christ Jesus with joy in every part of West Tennessee. We will live as disciples, "on fire" with love for God's Word, sharing it with everyone we meet—family members, friends, fellow parishioners, neighbors, and even strangers.
- **Unity in Diversity.** We will live as the Body of Christ, united in the love of the Triune God, celebrating the diversity and the unity of the Body and building on the gifts and talents of all (1 Corinthians 12:1 - 1 Corinthians 13:13).
- **Faith Formation.** We will engage all youth and young adults fully in the life of Christ's Church. Parents of young children will find opportunities for participation and faith formation for themselves and their children in all parts of West Tennessee. Our Catholic schools will be lauded as a most precious gift, a gift to be nurtured, and we will work to provide faith formation opportunities to all school families.
- **Community Outreach.** We will reach out to our sisters and brothers in need and share sacrificially and generously with them from God's abundance. We will strengthen our commitment to the work for peace in our region and world. We will perform the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, confident that God our Father heals us as we extend the gift of the healing power of Christ to all who are suffering in any way.
- **Stewardship.** We will be generous and responsible stewards of all God's gifts, making wise and prudent decisions, using our facilities responsibly, and giving freely of our time, talents, and financial resources. We will work to make ministries available to individuals and families in all parts of West Tennessee.

If we allow the love of God to overflow in our hearts here in West Tennessee, all these things will happen. Then we will truly develop *A New Heart for Mission: Santidad y Servicio*. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20).

*+Bishop David P. Talley, Chair, and members of the Strategic Pastoral Planning Committee of the Catholic Diocese of Memphis in West Tennessee.*

# Catholic Diocese of Memphis

## Strategic Pastoral Planning 2022-2024



### Phase I

Prepare

Advent  
2022

Easter  
2023

### Phase II

Plan

Easter  
2023

Advent  
2023

### Phase III

Develop

Solemnity of the  
Blessed Virgin  
Mary  
January 2024

Advent  
2024

### Phase IV

Implement

2025

2028





## Catholic Diocese of Memphis

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### Phase I - Prepare (Completed)

#### November 2022-April 2023 (Done)

- 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 - Plan (Completed)

#### May 2023-July 2023 (Done)

- 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 (Done)

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

#### October 2023 (Done)

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

#### November 2023 (Done)

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

#### December 2023 (Done)

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

### Phase III - Develop (In Process)

#### January 2024-December 2024 (We Are Here)

- Develop detailed action plans designed to achieve our Vision and Priorities—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 - Implement (Final Stage)

#### January 2025-2028 (Execute)

- Implement our Strategic Pastoral Plan for the next three-to-five years that will include a Vision Statement, a Mission Statement, and the six Priorities--each with an Action 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. \***