

Missionary Planning and the Post-2020 Plan

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Happy New Year! With the change of the calendar comes the awareness that 2020 has arrived and another decade is upon us. We pause to thank God for His many blessings over the past decade, and look with hope toward the next ten years of making disciples as the Catholic Church of Southeastern Wisconsin.

The New Year also reminds us that the 2020 Plan for the archdiocese has brought us to this point and come to fruition. 2020 has arrived so now it is time for a new missionary plan to guide us over the course of the next ten years of disciple-making. What will the Church of 2030 look like? How can we bring more people to Christ in His Church? How is the Spirit leading us?

One thing is for sure: the task of formulating a Post-2020 Plan is essentially an adventure in faith. With deep hope in the power of the Resurrected Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit unleashed at Pentecost, we can believe with confidence that God is alive and in charge with an inspiring plan for the growth of His Body, the Church. This is our faith and our hope!

It is against this backdrop of fervent faith and certain hope, that the Post-2020 Planning Team is going about its work. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the first task of the planning group was to articulate a clear vision and process for its work. This guiding document lays out what we want to accomplish and how we will get there. It serves as our “planning roadmap.”

In each monthly newsletter, I want to introduce you to the different facets of our planning roadmap. That way our process will be transparent. You will know what we are doing to formulate a plan and how we are doing it. Each month I will introduce you to a section of the planning roadmap and provide some background commentary. This month, let’s look at our defined planning task.

Our Task

Our task is to articulate a faithful, courageous, and visionary plan for parishes and schools of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that is anchored in the mission of the Church.

-) We will set a direction for 10 years
-) We will formulate a plan that is implemented on a short and intermediate term basis
-) The plan will be specific and adaptable based on changing information and needs

Every group needs clarity to achieve what it is designed to achieve. So we began by clearly articulating our planning task. You will note that the task has some important nuances in both its definition and its implementation. We want to plan in a way that is faithful, courageous, and

visionary. God is bold so we need to be as well. And our plan needs to advance the Church's mission of making disciples.

The task is also about setting a direction for the next ten years, but with a pathway to get there in the ensuing years. We need incremental steps to get us to the ultimate goal. So the plan happens in the present as well as the future. All the while, the incremental steps need to be evaluated and adapted through broad consultation and respect for local leadership expertise.

So that gives you a window into the planning team and the task that they are trying to fulfill. I would like to take this moment to ask all leaders in the archdiocese to bring this team and this task to the Lord in prayer on a regular basis in an intentional way. Please specifically pray for the Lord's vision and clarity and pray that, in the end, only His will is done. Prayer is the real roadmap for everything we do!