

# Be Missionary Disciples

## UPDATE

### Part 2: Lessons from the Pilot Pastorates

The pilot pastorates were a purposefully diverse group of pastorates that, through their diversity, revealed that kinds of things that were great opportunities or major stumbling blocks to engaging the call to missionary discipleship at both the personal and community level.

#### What are the Pilot Pastorates Doing?

Although each Pilot Pastorate approached the planning process from a unique starting point, they shared a few key experiences as part of that process, including:

#### Formation of a local Pastorate Planning Team

who gathered on a regular basis to review current opportunities and challenges in the pastorate, discern a pastorate vision, and strategize about how to move closer to the vision

**Participation in a Day of Reflection** for pastors, planning teams, and staff on the Core Mission Priorities and how they are lived out in the pastorate

#### Quarterly gatherings of the pastors,

facilitated by Dominic Perri from Leadership Roundtable, to build a learning community and encourage sharing of experiences

#### What Lessons Have Been Learned from the Pilot Phase?

##### Learnings from Pastors

- Importance of embracing a leadership role and leading with a vision
- Need for good support for building and leading teams
- Discernment, planning and team building

##### Learnings About Pastorate Planning

- Importance of building relationships in multi-parish pastorates
- Need for clear and facilitated planning process
- Need to use planning team effectively and time-efficiently
- Importance of addressing issues that will prevent or distract from being able to vision and plan

##### Learnings About Archdiocesan Plan

- Phasing challenges and opportunities
- The original 5-year plan for every pastorate is not realistic due to personnel issues and timing challenges
- Need for support when a new pastor is named but the pastorate hasn't been activated.
- In some cases, critical issues must be addressed before planning
- Ongoing urgency to reassert that the call to missionary discipleship is at the heart of Be Missionary Disciples

Because each pastorate is unique, once activated, the Pilot Pastorates engaged in pastorate planning at their own pace. The following is a very brief summary of the status of each of the pilot pastorates at the end of 2018:

## Western Vicariate

### Our Lady of the Mountains

- Addressing facilities in tandem with evangelization-based planning because it has been difficult to focus first on the question of how best to evangelize with significant questions about facilities remaining
- Determined the need to reduce the number of worship sites; holding a series of town hall meetings on proposed changes

### Holy Family/St. Francis/St. Mary

- Good foundational understanding of missionary discipleship and evangelization-based planning laid with planning team
- Working on crafting plan, facilitated by Archdiocesan staff, which should be completed by summer of this year

### St. Joseph, Sykesville

- Continued development of plan based on six Core Mission Priorities and corresponding implementation actions
- Plan approved by pastorate planning team in September 2018

## Eastern Vicariate

### Catholic Community of Ascension and St. Augustine

- Completed review of existing strategic plan, with facilitation by Archdiocesan staff; plan affirmed by planning team

### St. John, Severna Park

- Continuing to work with Divine Renovation Network
- Working on updating strategic plan with outside facilitator

### St. Joseph, Cockeysville

- Continuing multi-year planning effort
- Year 3 plan developed over summer 2018 with a staff facilitator
- Clarifying strategic vision to guide direction of pastorate, especially in terms of planned building projects

## Urban Vicariate

### Sacred Heart of Mary/St. Rita/Our Lady of Fatima

- Completed a review of current conditions in pastorate and articulated view towards future, facilitated by Archdiocesan staff
- Newsletter with findings distributed to pastorate; next steps being discerned

### St. Brigid/St. Casimir/St. Elizabeth of Hungary

- Completed initial review with planning team of current conditions in pastorate
- Determined the need to reduce from three to two worship sites; the final Mass at St. Brigid was celebrated Feb. 2, 2019
- Will reconstitute planning team and begin evangelization-based planning in the new year, facilitated by Archdiocesan staff

### St. Anthony/St. Dominic/Most Precious Blood

- Crafted a vision for a Year of Engagement in the pastorate, focused around intentional moments of discipleship
- Consolidated the office and administrative functions into one office at St. Anthony of Padua, and combined the Finance Committees together to augment and support the combined Pastoral Council
- Adopted a new name "The Epiphany Pastorate of St Anthony, St Dominic and Most Precious Blood" to help ground the vision and mission in a diverse immigrant community
- Building relationships among pastorate parishes and ownership of the process, guided by an outside facilitator