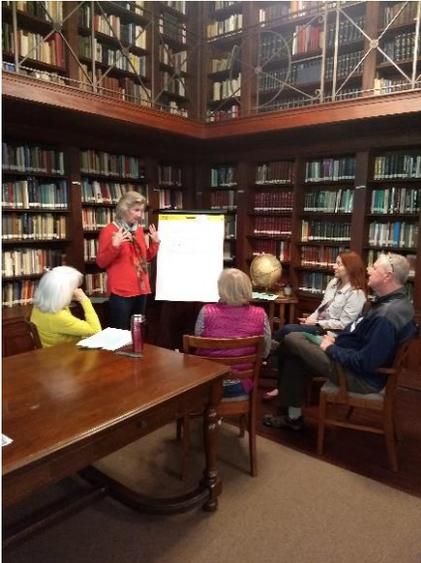


New Cohort of Activated Pastorates



Nine new pastorates were activated in July 2019 and have begun their pastorate planning work. After a couple of initial meetings aimed at orienting the team to the planning journey ahead, most pastorates are starting off their work with a Sacred Purpose workshop. Open to a large group of people, this workshop is designed to begin a conversation about the unique ways in which God is calling each pastorate to take up the mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The workshop helps to shape an understanding of the contribution of the pastorate to the world through specific stories of impact, creating a compelling narrative of purpose that can create opportunities for invitation and be a springboard for a vision of a promising future.

Following on the Sacred Purpose workshop, each pastorate will begin a series of conversations aimed at:

- understanding the context for carrying out the call to evangelize;
- casting a vision of a community of missionary disciples; and,
- building a plan to strive for that vision using the Core Mission Priorities as a framework.

This work will be facilitated by a staff member from the Office of Pastoral Planning, in close collaboration with the pastorate staff and leaders.

In addition to the workshops and planning sessions:

- In September, Archbishop Lori hosted a reception of thanksgiving for the 2019 cohort pastors.
- In mid-November, the pastors and associate pastors will gather again as a cohort for a day of prayer, fellowship, and formation around the topic of leading with a vision.
- In November, the cohort will begin a series of virtual coaching sessions open to all of the planning team members. The focus will be on the hallmarks of an evangelizing parish. Each session will include discussion with local people who are great examples of this work in action, and opportunities for planning team members to share their experiences and ask questions.

2019 Cohort

Annunciation – St. Clement Mary Hofbauer – St. Michael ♦ Holy Family (Randallstown) ♦ St. Andrew by the Bay ♦ St. Ann – St. Wenceslaus – St. Francis Xavier St. John (Columbia) ♦ St. John (Hydes) ♦ St. Leo ♦ St. Peter (Hancock) – St. Patrick (Little Orleans) ♦ St. Philip Neri – St. Clement

Previous Cohorts

While a number of pastorates from the previous two cohorts either affirmed existing plans or completed plans already in the works, some pastorates are continuing their work; many of these are close to wrapping up their plans. Once the priority strategies that will help spread the Gospel in their pastorate are identified, they will begin putting the plan into action. These pastorates have shown that:

- Thinking deeply about missionary discipleship, the Core Mission Priorities, and how God is calling each pastorate to respond is not always easy, BUT
- It can be energizing for pastors and their staff and leadership.
- This renewed sense of focus and purpose can positively shape how the pastorate invites parishioners and the community at large into a loving, transformative relationship with Christ.



Following an overwhelmingly positive response to the retreat offered for the 2018 (Phase 1A) cohort this past spring, a condensed version of that experience is being offered for the staff of these pastorates in November. The retreat is meant to introduce the language of the Paschal Mystery into our daily lives and work, so that we can prayerfully and pastorally surmount challenges and envision new possibilities with hope and trust that is firmly rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Formation for Missionary Discipleship and Pastorate Planning

The Office of Pastoral Planning and the Department of Evangelization are visiting parishes on a regular basis to provide support in forming pastorates around missionary discipleship and pastorate planning. By discussing the ways in which missionary discipleship already is being lived out, these offices can suggest opportunities for building a shared sense of mission among staff, leadership, and parishioners in both single-parish pastorates and multi-parish pastorates. This includes self-guided studies and discernment, as well as conversations facilitated by Archdiocesan staff. Contact either the Office Pastoral Planning or the Department of Evangelization for support with ideas for formation.



Fra Angelico, "St. Peter Preaching," 1433.