

Promise 2020



A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND PARISHES IN NORTH AND SOUTH OMAHA

Vibrant Parishes and Schools for the Future

A. Criteria for Parish Vitality

WORSHIP AND THE SACRAMENTS

1. The Eucharistic Liturgy is central in the life of the parish.
2. Liturgical celebrations are carefully prepared and well-attended with enthusiastic participation.
3. Homilies are thought-provoking and challenging.
4. Sacramental preparation is provided and conducted in accordance with Archdiocesan guidelines. Participation in sacraments is an indication of parish life.
5. The prayer life of parishioners extends beyond the liturgy and the sacraments.
6. Liturgical music is of high quality, engages the worshiper, and appropriate for the Mass.

EVANGELIZATION

7. The parish is actively reaching out to inactive Catholics, people seeking God, and the unchurched.
8. The RCIA process is implemented both liturgically and catechetically.
9. The parish promotes a welcoming, inclusive, and culturally sensitive spirit at all events and activities.
10. The parish fosters dialog, cooperation, and sharing of resources with other faith communities.

LEADERSHIP AND MISSION

11. The parish has a clear Christ-centered mission. The mission is aligned with the mission of the Archdiocese and the universal Church.
12. The parish can support a priest and staff to sustain parish ministries. Staff have appropriate qualifications. Sharing staff with other parishes can be a way to sustain some areas of ministry.
13. Lay leaders are called forth for roles of service that further the mission and vitality of the parish. Lay leaders receive appropriate education and training to be effective.
14. A sufficient number of active parishioners offer their time and talent to sustain the parish mission. A viable parish requires the active involvement of a significant number of parishioners with a plan to develop and involve new parishioners in the future.
15. The parish has a long-range pastoral plan that will carry out the mission and ministry of Jesus and serve the needs of the people in the area.

PASTORAL CARE

16. The parish ministers to the elderly, homebound, and disabled parishioners. The parish provides ministry to people in hospitals, nursing homes, and other care facilities.
17. The parish offers ministry that comforts and supports the grieving, the separated, and the divorced.
18. The parish supports programs for people with special needs and addictions.

FAITH FORMATION AND CATHOLIC EDUCATION

19. Parishioners are challenged to grow and live as disciples of Jesus Christ.
20. Adult education programs are provided including opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of scripture, Catholic teachings, tradition, and prayer.
21. The parish provides comprehensive faith formation for children in Catholic schools and religious education programs. These can be offered in collaboration with neighboring parishes.
22. The parish has ministries that reach the youth of the community. These can be provided within the parish or in collaboration with other parishes.
23. Adequate staff and resources are invested to produce quality programs that attract children, youth and their families. Programs are culturally relevant and spiritually sound.
24. Parents are engaged and active in the faith development of their children.
25. Vocations to the priesthood and religious life are actively and prayerfully promoted.
26. Catechists, teachers, and catechetical leaders are trained and competent in their ministries.

PARISH COMMUNITY

27. The membership of the parish is sufficient in size to carry out the mission of the Church which includes a full range of ministries and programs which serve the needs of parishioners of all ages.
28. Parishioners are connected to one another through smaller communities of faith or through various organizations and ministries of the parish.
29. The parish has an effective pastoral council, finance council, and working committees which actively engage and involve the faithful to carry out the pastoral activity of the parish.
30. A communications strategy is in place using current technology to keep parishioners informed and connected to events, activities, and opportunities.

SERVING OTHERS

31. The parish is engaged through active ministries that serve people in need within the immediate parish area, the wider community, and the world. Works of charity are done in the name of Christ and in a manner that transforms society.
32. The parish embraces the social justice dimension of the Gospel and Catholic tradition.
33. The parish collaborates with other churches and civic agencies to serve the wider community.

STEWARDSHIP

34. Parishioners understand stewardship and exhibit the giving of time, talent, and treasure to support the Church's mission.
35. The parish has sustainable offertory revenue that is sufficient to support ministries, programs, facilities, and staff as required to be a vital parish. The parish can support a full-time or part-time pastor.
36. The cost to maintain a Catholic school is not more than 50% of parish offertory income.
37. Parish facilities are well-maintained. Ancillary facilities such as meeting rooms, parish halls, and offices are adequate for parish ministry and programs.
38. The parish practices responsible budgeting and breaks even or has a surplus at year end. Revenue grows in proportion to expenses and sources of revenue are sustainable.
39. Financial reporting is done in a timely manner and follows the accounting standards established by the Archdiocese.