

Archdiocese of Omaha

WRITING A PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement of the parish is developed by the Pastoral Council (PC) and the pastor in conversation with the parish communities being merged.

The Pastoral Planning process suggests asking parishioners these questions:

- What words is Jesus giving us to direct our future?
- Why do you think the Universal Catholic Church exists?
- What makes our parish unique and special?

When the PC convenes to draft a mission statement, the responses to these questions become the basis for discernment.

After the parish assembly, the cards that were filled out during the assembly are transcribed by members of the PC onto summary sheets. These summary sheets are distributed to each PC member before the brainstorming session where the mission statement is drafted.

If separate assemblies have been conducted in different languages, the cards are also translated into the common language used in the PC meetings.

DRAFTING A PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Mission statements are composed of four major areas. As the PC begins to draft their mission statement, these areas can provide a helpful framework:

- **Identity** - This part of the mission statement indicates the identifying elements of the parish – name, location, unique character, and history. (Ex: We, the faith community of ...)
- **Purpose** - Focuses on the core values, beliefs, and the reason for the parish's existence. (Ex: Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we value ...)
- **Function** Identifies the commitments of the parish. What the parish does in the broadest sense and to whom it is directed. (Ex: We are committed to ...)
- **Identity** Addresses areas of challenge and elements that need strengthening. (Ex: We seek to become ...)

As the PC considers each of these areas they are encouraged to reflect on the input of the parishioners and create statements which refer to each of the four areas of mission. When all statements are put together they form the mission of the new parish.

The mission statement in its draft should be distributed to parishioners for their consideration. The mission statement can also be distributed along with the parish goals. Opportunities should be given for people to comment on the mission statement.