



Archdiocesan Pastoral Assembly

Executive Summary
Saturday, October 9, 2021

Morning Prayer & Welcome – Nancy Werner

The Pastoral Assembly started with Morning Prayer. Nancy Werner, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, welcomed the attendees to the 2021 pastoral assembly.

All Things New Strategic Pastoral Planning Initiative Sessions – Reverend Chris Martin and Mike School

At this pastoral assembly, we will provide a platform for Archbishop Rozanski to share his vision for this strategic pastoral planning initiative; integrate prayer, evangelization, and strategic planning for parishes, schools, and archdiocesan ministries under a shared framework; share the initial feedback and findings from preliminary data gatherings; and engage those gathered in targeted questions.

Why a strategic pastoral planning initiative? To develop a plan that will make all things new, enabling a vibrant Catholic presence in the archdiocese for the next century.

Feedback was collected from nearly 650 members of the clergy and laity in 2021 – St. Louis has strong Catholic identity; losing youth and young adults; evangelizations efforts are unsuccessful; too parochial with lots of divisions; too many schools for our needs; schools do not form life-long Catholics; need more lay leadership; need to support our clergy; must be bold and forward-looking.

Process will include parishes, schools, archdiocesan curia, agencies, and seminary. The first two years will encompass prayer, discernment and planning. Years three – eight will be implementation of the plan, finishing in 2028.

Strategic Pastoral Planning Process Goals:

- Unceasing Prayer. Engage all individual Catholics to reflect upon the need for Jesus Christ in their daily lives and call upon the Holy Spirit to guide our actions to fully share the love of the Lord in every encounter.
 - developed the “All Things New” prayer. Found in your folders.
 - monthly prayer intentions from Archbishop Rozanski
 - weekly prayer intentions for Sunday Masses
 - plan prayer events for the clergy and laity with Eucharistic Revival
- Unifying Vision. Articulate and implement a vision for evangelization that empowers and expects every baptized Catholic to spread the Gospel message and ensures a Catholic presence in every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis through missionary outreach, parish and school footprint, and dynamic leadership.

- number of Catholics in archdiocese continues to decline
- our Catholic population is aging, with fewer young people in church
- develop evangelization efforts
- develop prayer resources for individuals and families
- must increase hospitality efforts throughout the archdiocese
- host service opportunities on diocesan and parish levels. Service is important to younger Catholics.
- Intentional Stewardship. Define and develop a plan that will appropriately reallocate resources throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis that will be supported by structures at the diocesan, parish, school, and agency levels to ensure long-term viability and vibrancy of the Catholic presence.
 - Mass attendance continues to decline. Approximately 36% of pews occupied during weekend Mass (2019).
 - fewer baptisms and fewer children in Catholic schools and PSR programs. Enrollment continues to decline. PSR enrollment has declined faster than day school enrollment.
 - we have a declining number of priests to serve in parishes; this will continue into the future.
 - too few diocesan priests in large parishes and too many priests in small parishes
 - Archdiocesan Pastoral Council should be key consultative body for planning
 - must use models which best use diocesan and parochial resources to meet the needs of the archdiocese into the next century

Strategic Pastoral Planning Process Key Advisory Bodies will include: Archbishop Rozanski, Core Planning Team, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, priests and religious, deacons, archdiocesan advisory councils, archdiocesan curia and staff, archdiocesan seminary, and the lay faithful of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

The process will be communicated through various mechanisms including: Tuesday Memo, archdiocesan website, *St. Louis Review* newspaper and *Catholic St. Louis* magazine.

Facilitated Discussion in Breakout Rooms

Questions:

1. Given all that you have heard this morning, what's becoming clear about the "All Things New" initiative?
2. What have I heard about "All Things New" that gives me the most hope, that inspires me?
3. What have I heard about "All Things New" that is most unsettling or challenging?
4. What else do I need to know about "All Things New" in order to talk about it with others?

Listening Session with Archbishop Rozanski

Archbishop answered several questions asked by attendees. Discussed the inclusion of teens in this strategic pastoral planning process.

Closing Remarks – Nancy Werner

Remember to complete your evaluation form in your packet. Special thank you to all of you for attending this annual pastoral assembly. Next year's assembly is Saturday, October 15, 2022. It was a privilege to be with you. Closed with Archbishop Rozanski leading the *All Things New* prayer.