



ALL THINGS NEW

STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

PARISH ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 9, 2021

TODAY'S OBJECTIVES



By the conclusion of today, we will accomplish the following:

- Provide a platform for Archbishop Rozanski to share his vision for this strategic planning initiative
- Integrate prayer, evangelization efforts, and strategic planning for parishes, schools, and archdiocesan ministries under a shared thematic framework
- Share a summary of initial feedback and findings from preliminary data gathering as well as an outline of key milestones and activities for 2021 through 2023
- Engage those gathered in targeted questions around scope



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OUR UNITED VISION



REV. 21:3-5

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them."

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, the old order has passed away."

*The one who sat on the throne said, "**Behold, I make all things new.**" Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true."*

GUIDING TEXTS

Evangelii Nuntiandi no. 18.

For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new: "Now I am making the whole of creation new." But there is no new humanity if there are not first of all new persons renewed by Baptism and by lives lived according to the Gospel.





GUIDING TEXTS

Joy of the Gospel no. 27

I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.



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**WHY A STRATEGIC PASTORAL
PLANNING INITIATIVE**

WHY A STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING INITIATIVE?

Develop a plan that will make all things new enabling a vibrant Catholic presence in every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis for the next century

A Renewed Church

Gospel renewal in our parishes, schools, and other ministry efforts

A Renewed Mission

Enhance our evangelization efforts to those on the margins of society

A Vibrant Future

Secure a vibrant future for the Church of St. Louis



GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO A STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING PROCESS



INITIAL FEEDBACK GATHERED FROM NEARLY 650 MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY AND LAITY IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2021

Priest Online Survey
*194 of 300
active/retired priests*

Permanent Deacon
Online Survey
*117 of 193
active/retired deacons*

1-1 Interviews
31 participants

Focus Groups
*80 participants in
13 focus groups*

Advisory Bodies
~200 participants



TOP 15 FEEDBACK THEMES

1. St. Louis has a strong Catholic identity and culture
2. The archdiocese serves a great diversity of people who need more support and ministry
3. We are hemorrhaging youth and young adults – a bolder approach is needed to address this population
4. Our past archdiocesan evangelization efforts have fallen short and appear non-existent
5. We are too parochial and don't work together at all levels - parishes are very siloed and autonomous
6. There's a big division between the city and the suburbs
7. The number of schools exceeds the needs and is hampering our ability to do other important ministry
8. Schools are known to be great for education people about Catholic beliefs, but they do not form students as life-long Catholics

TOP 15 FEEDBACK THEMES

9. Priests and parishes generally feel unsupported by the archdiocese. Communication, overall support, and relationships need to be improved
10. More focus is needed on lay leadership and participation
11. Need more encouragement and empathy for priests - priests want and need healing and courageous decision making
12. We can't keep doing things the way we are doing them, change is necessary
13. Our recent past has shown we have big plans but fall short when it comes to execution – this has to be different
14. Over time the process may cause ill will and conflict that will divide the priests and laity
15. **We must be bold and forward-looking**

STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING PROCESS GOALS

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS SCOPE

All entities within the Archdiocesan footprint, to include and not limited to:

Parishes

Schools

Curia

Agencies

Seminary

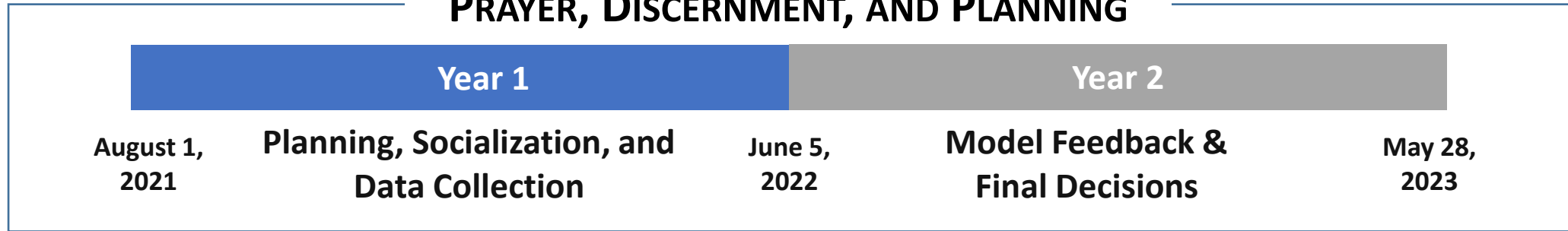


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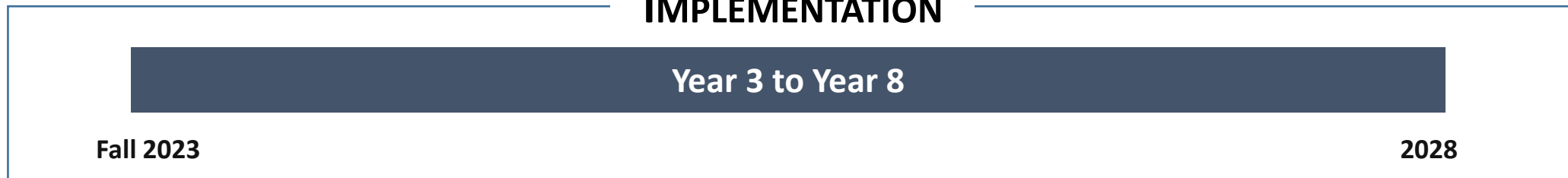
STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

TIMELINE

PRAYER, DISCERNMENT, AND PLANNING



IMPLEMENTATION





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UNCEASING PRAYER

STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING PROCESS GOALS

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ALL THINGS NEW PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus as the first Evangelizer of the Good News.

Send forth the power of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of St. Louis and grant us the gift of true discernment so we may do your will in all things.

Help us be totally free to follow wherever you lead us, totally generous to be good stewards of your many gifts, and totally passionate to suffer all in order to be more closely united to you.
(DISCERNMENT)

Commissioned by your Son and empowered by the Spirit to “Go and Make Disciples of all Nations,” strengthen us by the power of your grace as we bring the Good News of Salvation into the lives of all those we touch, so that individual hearts and all of society may be converted to you and all things might be made new. **(VISION)**

Inspired by the apostolic zeal of previous generations, as we begin the process of planning for the future, may our only desire be to do all things for the greater glory and honor of your name and for the good of your people in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. **(STEWARDSHIP)**

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



• GOAL #1: UNCEASING PRAYER

A partial list of objectives for Year 1 are:

- Unite the faithful across the Archdiocese in prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the strategic pastoral planning process:
 - Create a prayer for the strategic pastoral planning process to be prayed regularly in various parish, school, and diocesan settings
 - Share monthly prayer intentions from Archbishop Rozanski
 - Develop weekly prayer intentions for Sunday Masses
- Gather the faithful in opportunities for prayer
 - Coordinate prayer events with the Eucharistic Revival
 - Host regular regional prayer events for clergy and laity



UNCEASING PRAYER

- We are entering a period of discernment:
 - Freedom
 - Generosity
 - Passion
- Renewed call to unity around the altar (Eucharistic Revival)
- Archdiocesan, Deanery, Parish, and Individual prayer resources





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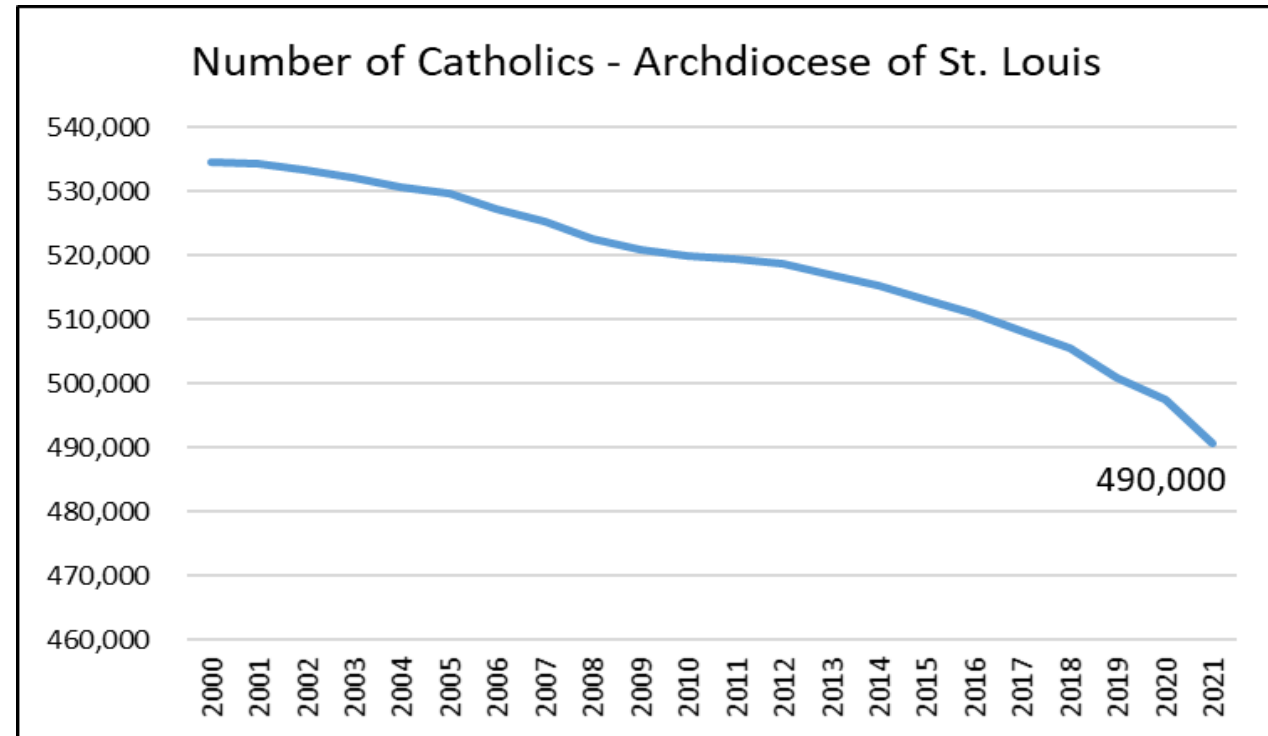
UNIFYING VISION

STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING PROCESS GOALS

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Why Evangelization? Our Catholic Population Continues to Decline

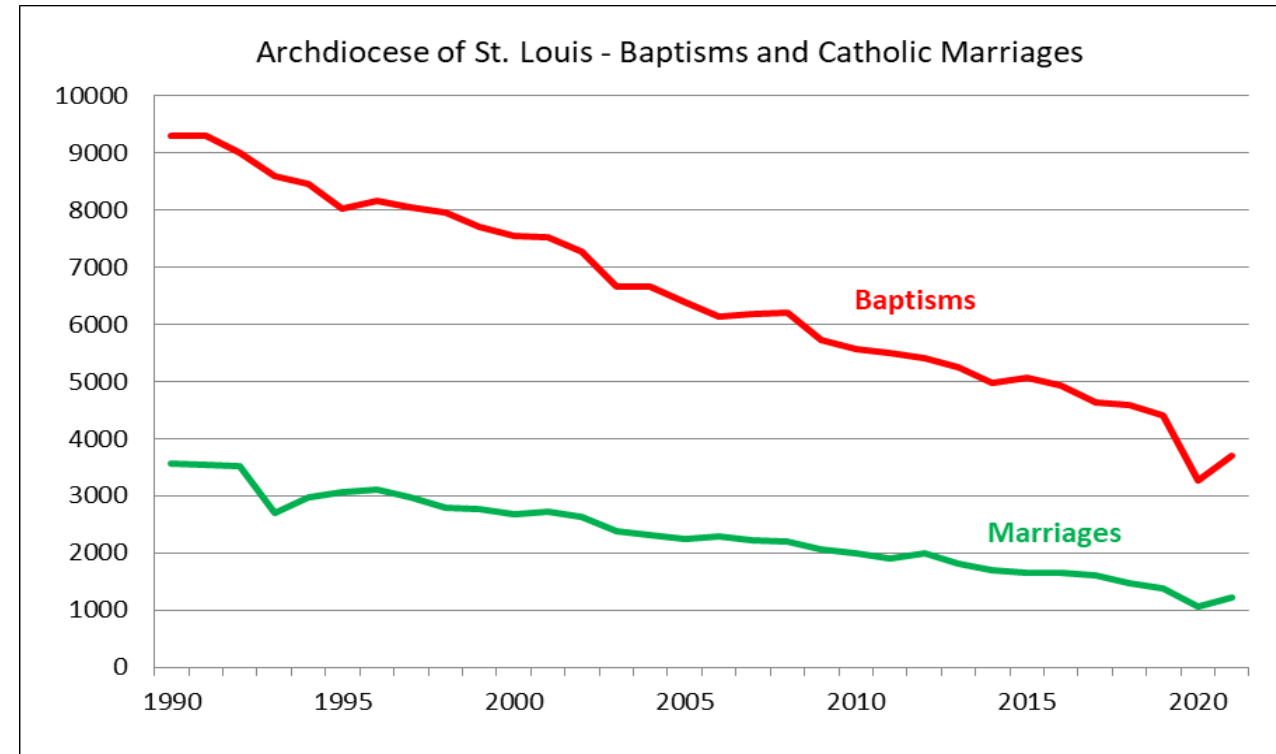
- Number of Catholics dipped below 500,000 for first time since the 1960s
- We have more baptisms than funerals and we have nearly 1,000 enter the church each year. Our numbers should be growing by 2,000 per year
- As many as 5,000 Catholics are “leaving” the Church – OR – not re-engaging in the Church after high school or college.



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Our Catholic Population is Aging, with fewer young people in Church

- Pew Foundation national research
 - Last decade percentage of adult population claiming no religious affiliation (the “nones”) grew from 17% to 26%
 - Last decade percentage of millennial population claiming no religious affiliation grew from 27% to 40%
- This is reflected in our baptisms and marriages which are ½ of what they were 20 years ago



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GOAL #2: UNIFYING VISION

A partial list of objectives for Year 1 are:

- Nurture a shared language for evangelization efforts
- Develop **prayer** resources for individuals and families
- Share best practices for increasing **hospitality** efforts across the Archdiocese
- Equip leaders to **proclaim** our mission to “Go make disciples”
- Host **service** opportunities on the diocesan and parish levels

“Go Therefore and Make Disciples”

A Missionary Disciple is one who:

- Encounters Jesus Christ,
- Grows in relationship with Him.
- Witnesses Him to the World.



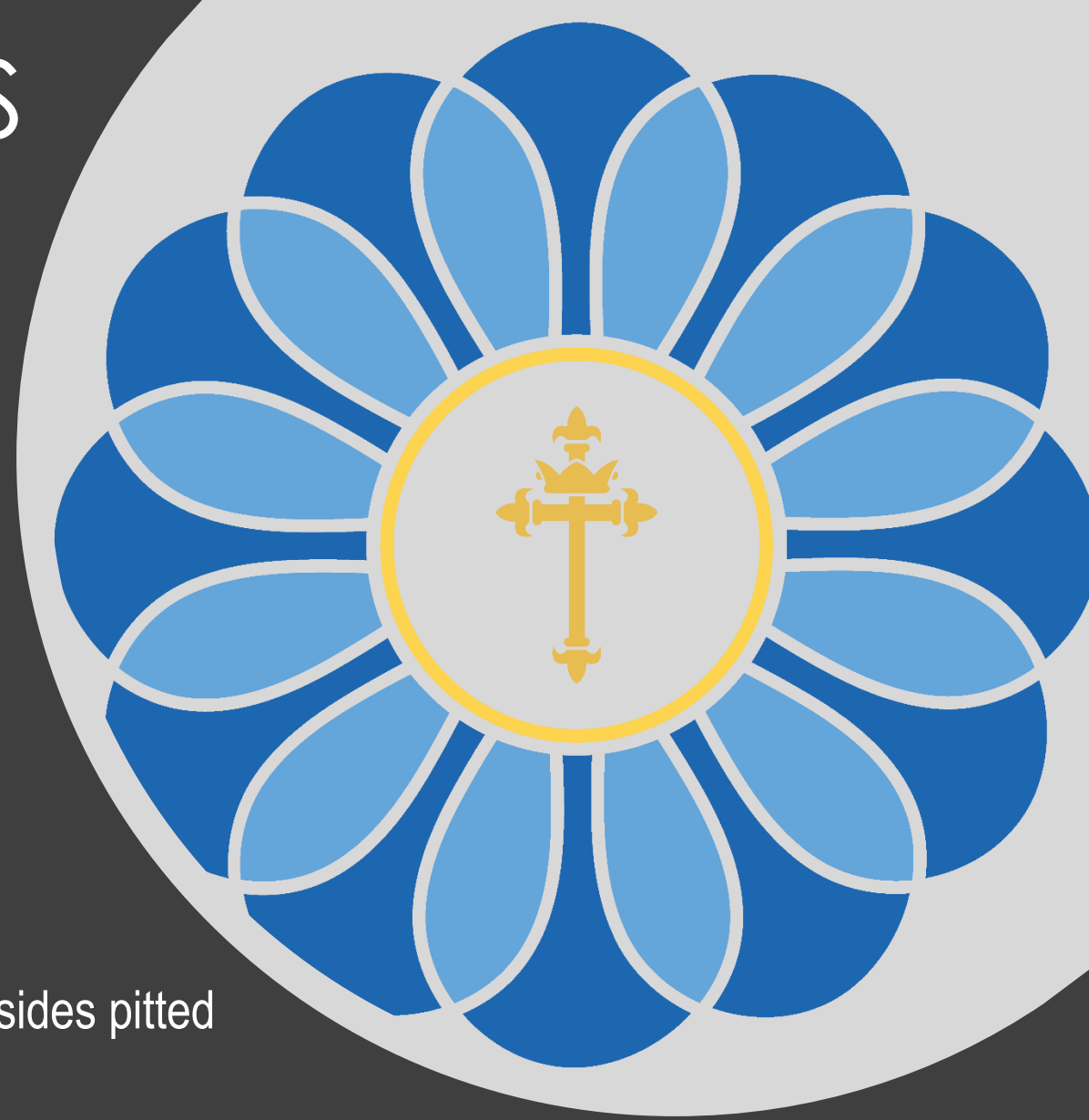
A large, stylized blue flower graphic with a central gold cross and fleur-de-lis symbol. The flower has multiple layers of petals, with the innermost layer being a darker blue and the outer layers being a lighter blue. The central symbol is gold and features a cross with a fleur-de-lis at the top and bottom. The entire graphic is set against a dark gray background.

SYNODALITY PRINCIPLES

- Dimensions to Consider
 - Planning is Permeated in Prayer
 - Planning ministry is Focused on Fruitfulness---What is our vision/goal
 - Effective Planning is Rooted in the Teachings of Our Faith and Supported by Foundational Pastoral Practices
 - Effective Planning Develops a Culture of Encounter and Trust
 - Effective Planning Requires Training of Leaders
 - Intentional Stewardship

SYNODALITY PRINCIPLES

- The Temptations:
 - To lead ourselves instead of being led by God
 - To focus only on our own immediate concerns
 - To see only “problems”
 - To focus only on structures
 - To not look beyond the confines of the church
 - Conflict and division
 - To view the discernment process as a “parliament” with sides pitted against each other
 - To listen only to the highly engaged





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INTENTIONAL STEWARDSHIP

STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING PROCESS GOALS

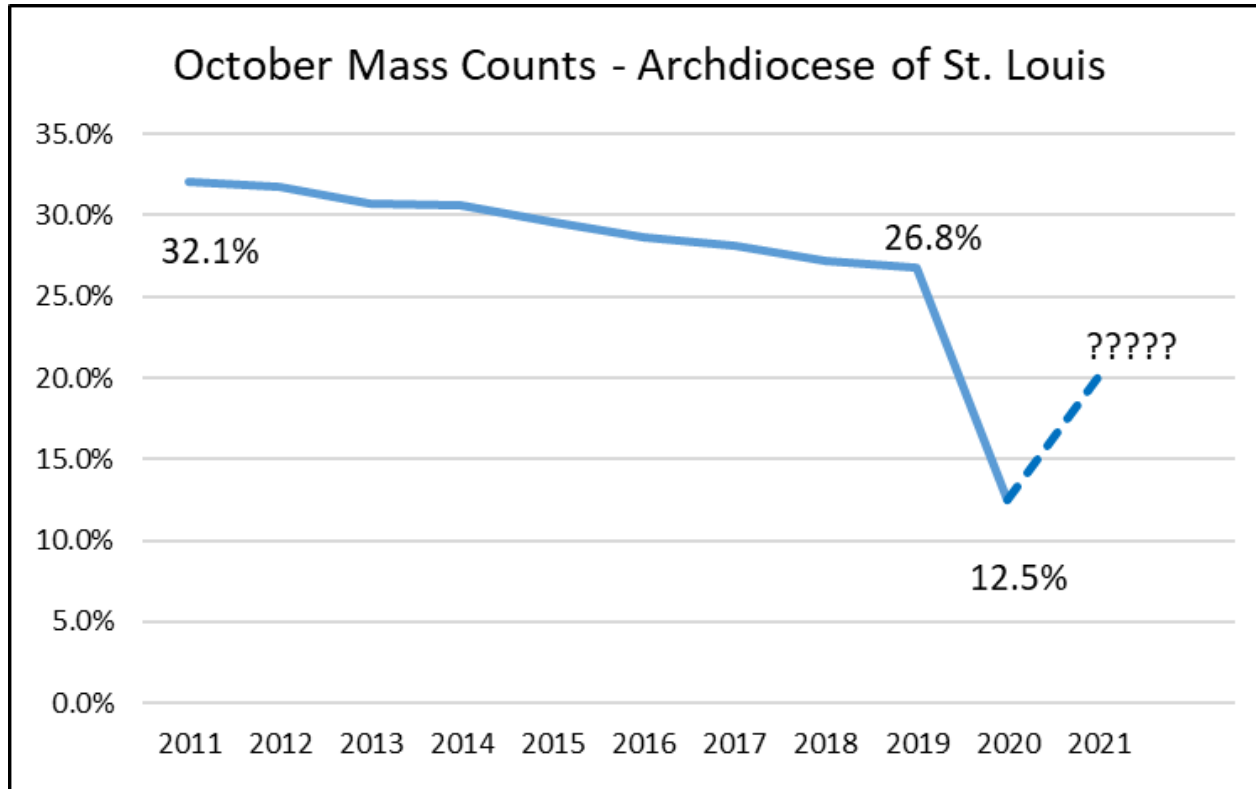
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Why Intentional Stewardship?



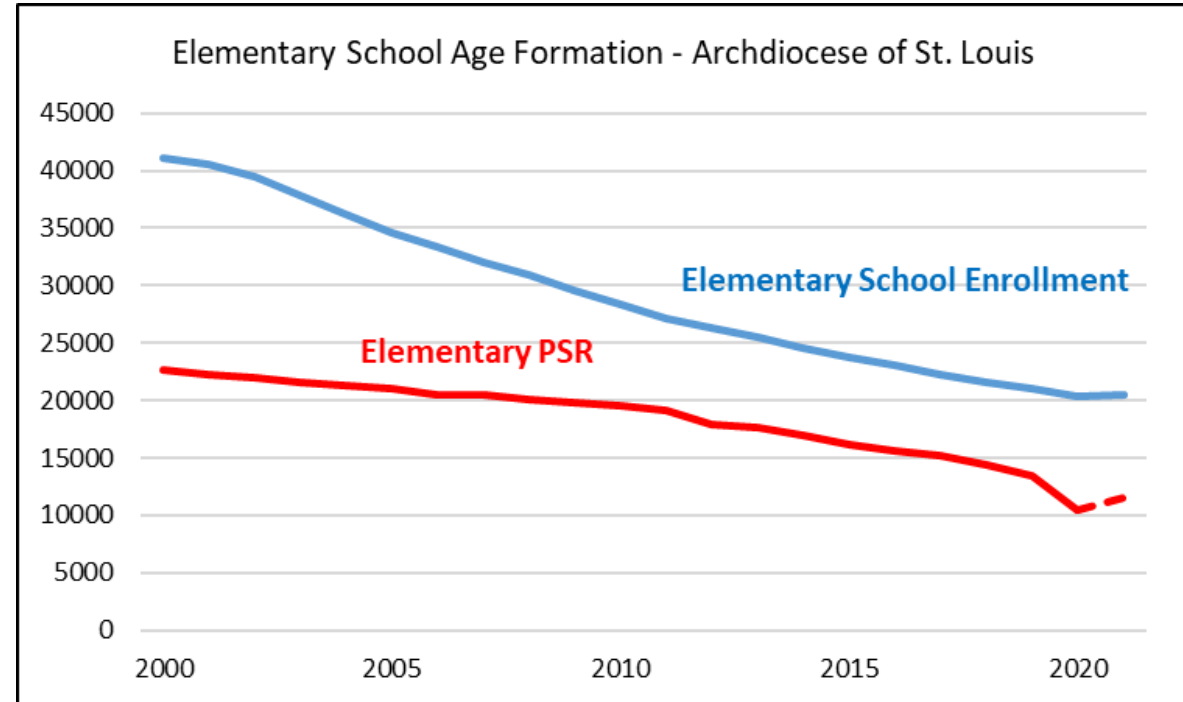
Mass Attendance Continues to Decline

- Pre-Covid Mass attendance was declining between 0.5% per year
- We are currently doing October 2021 Mass counts – how much will they rebound from 2020?
- In 2019 only 36% of our pews were occupied during the typical weekend Mass

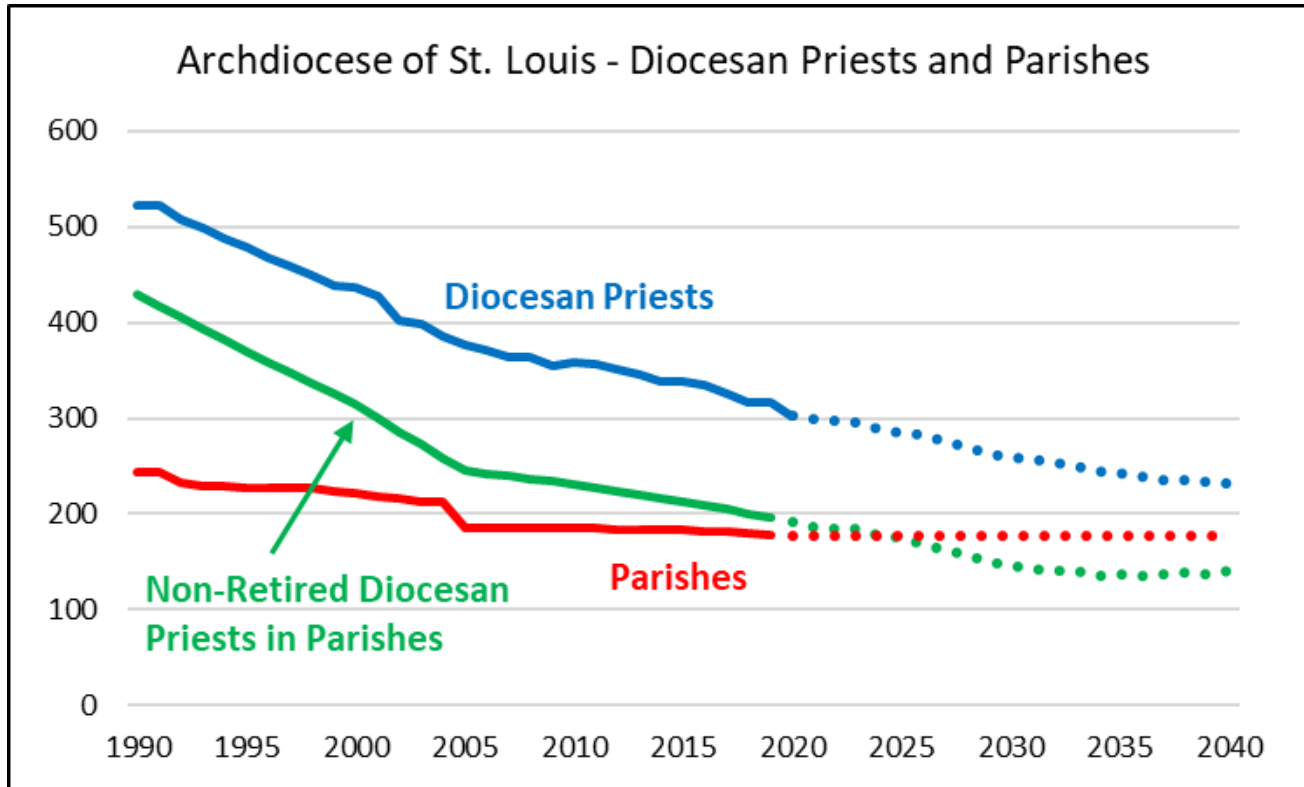


Fewer Baptisms has Resulted in Fewer Children in Catholic Schools and PSR

- Though we educate a higher percentage of children in our Catholic schools than nearly any other diocese (37%), enrollment continues to decline
- During the last decade, PSR enrollment has declined faster than day school enrollment
- Our current model of Catholic elementary schools cannot continue.
 - Only 40-50% of our elementary school children live in the boundaries of their parish school.
 - The cost to educate our students continues to outpace tuition increases
 - Parish investment in our schools continues to absorb an increasing percentage of parish funds available to support other parish ministries



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We have a declining number of diocesan priests that will continue into the future

- By 2026, we will have fewer diocesan priests in parishes than we have parishes.
- We must continue to have multiple priests in our large parishes.



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	Number of Catholics	Number of Parishes	Number of Non-Retired Diocesan Priests	Catholics per Priest	Catholics per Parish
Administered by Religious Priests	27,000	18	n/a		
1/2 of our remaining Catholics are in the 27 largest parishes	194,000	27	60	3,233	7,185
1/2 of our remaining Catholics are in the 133 smallest parishes	194,000	133	131	1,481	1,459
Registered Catholics in Parishes	415,000	178	191		
Unregistered Catholics	75,000				
Total Reported Catholics	490,000				

We have too few diocesan priests in large parishes and too many priests in small parishes

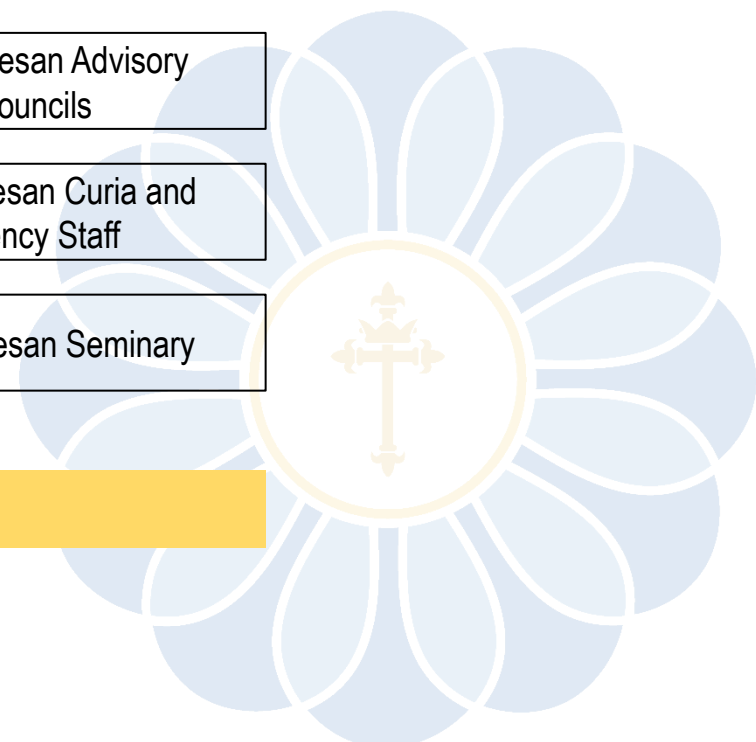
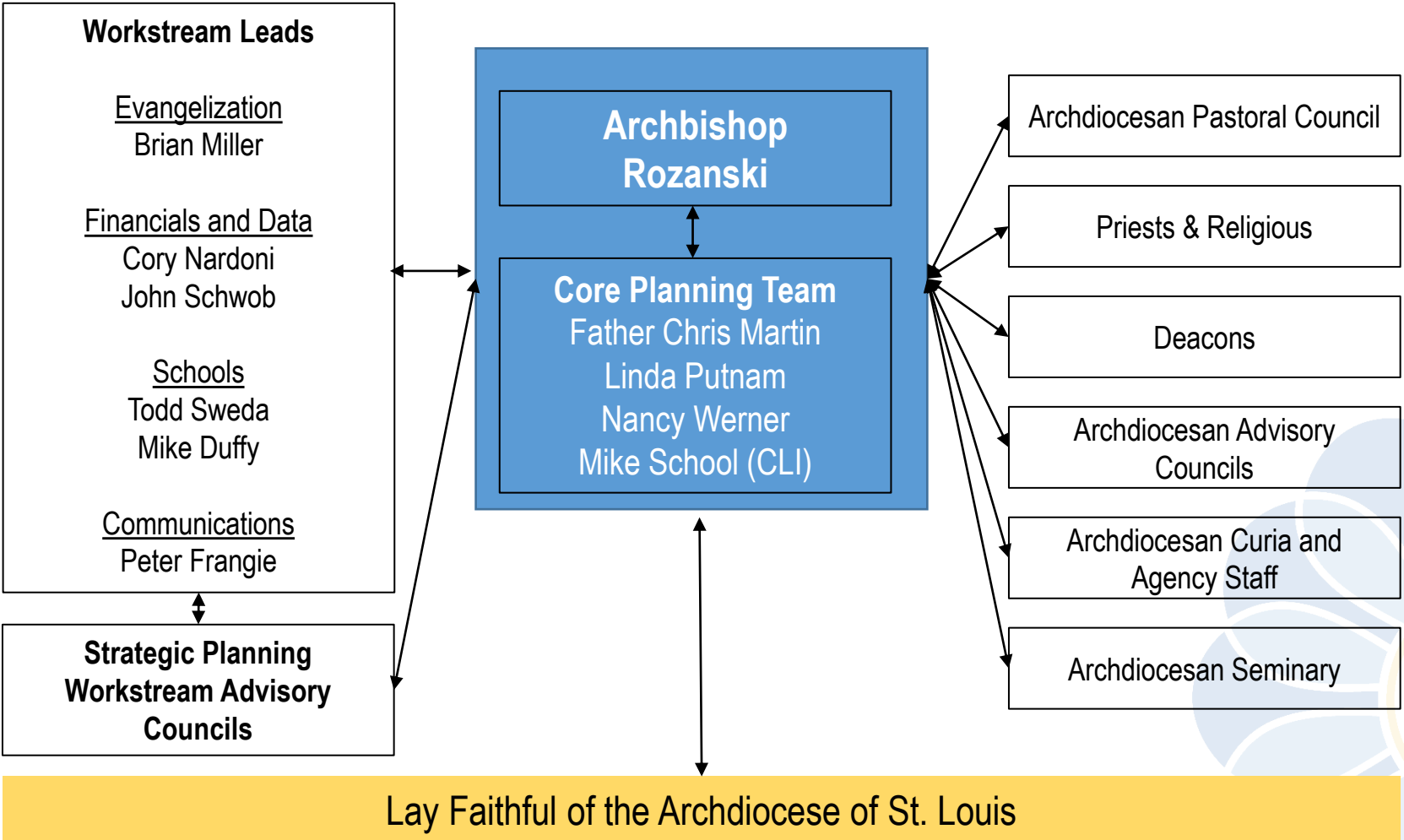
GOAL #3: INTENTIONAL STEWARDSHIP

A partial list of objectives for Year 1 are:

- Equip the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council to be a key consultative body for planning
- Gather input from the faithful and clergy of the local area, which addresses key mission needs and new or existing opportunities by considering the number of parishes and current missionary outreach.
- Assess the current priestly availability and future projections for active priests and acknowledge the new necessity and sustainability of our priestly presence in each area.
- Propose models which best use diocesan and parochial resources to be allocated to meet the needs of the Archdiocese to meet its evangelization vision into the next century.

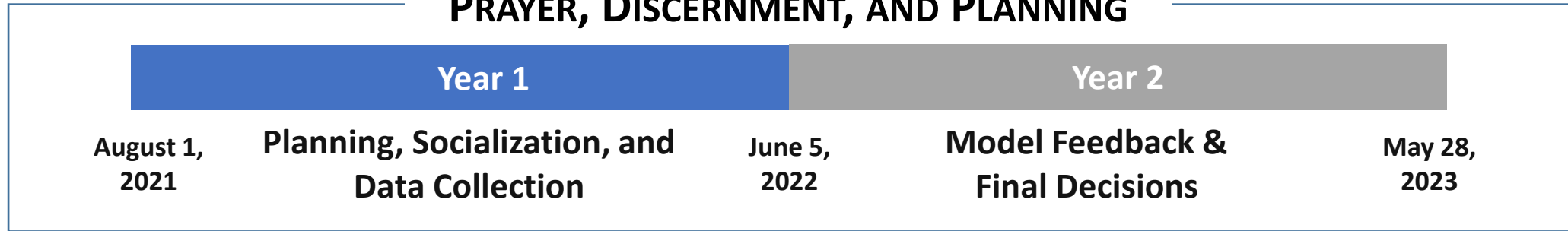


STRATEGIC PASTORAL PLANNING PROCESS KEY ADVISORY BODIES

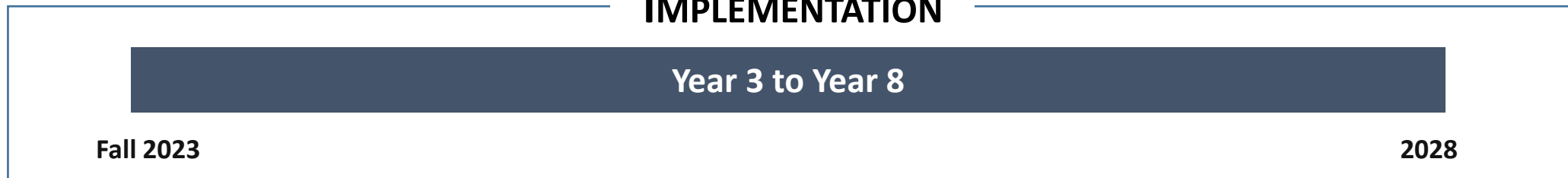


TIMELINE

PRAYER, DISCERNMENT, AND PLANNING



IMPLEMENTATION



COMMUNICATIONS

Prior to January 25, 2022

- Tuesday Memo communications

January 25, 2022

- Website
- Tuesday Memo communications
- *St. Louis Review* and *Catholic St. Louis* articles and features



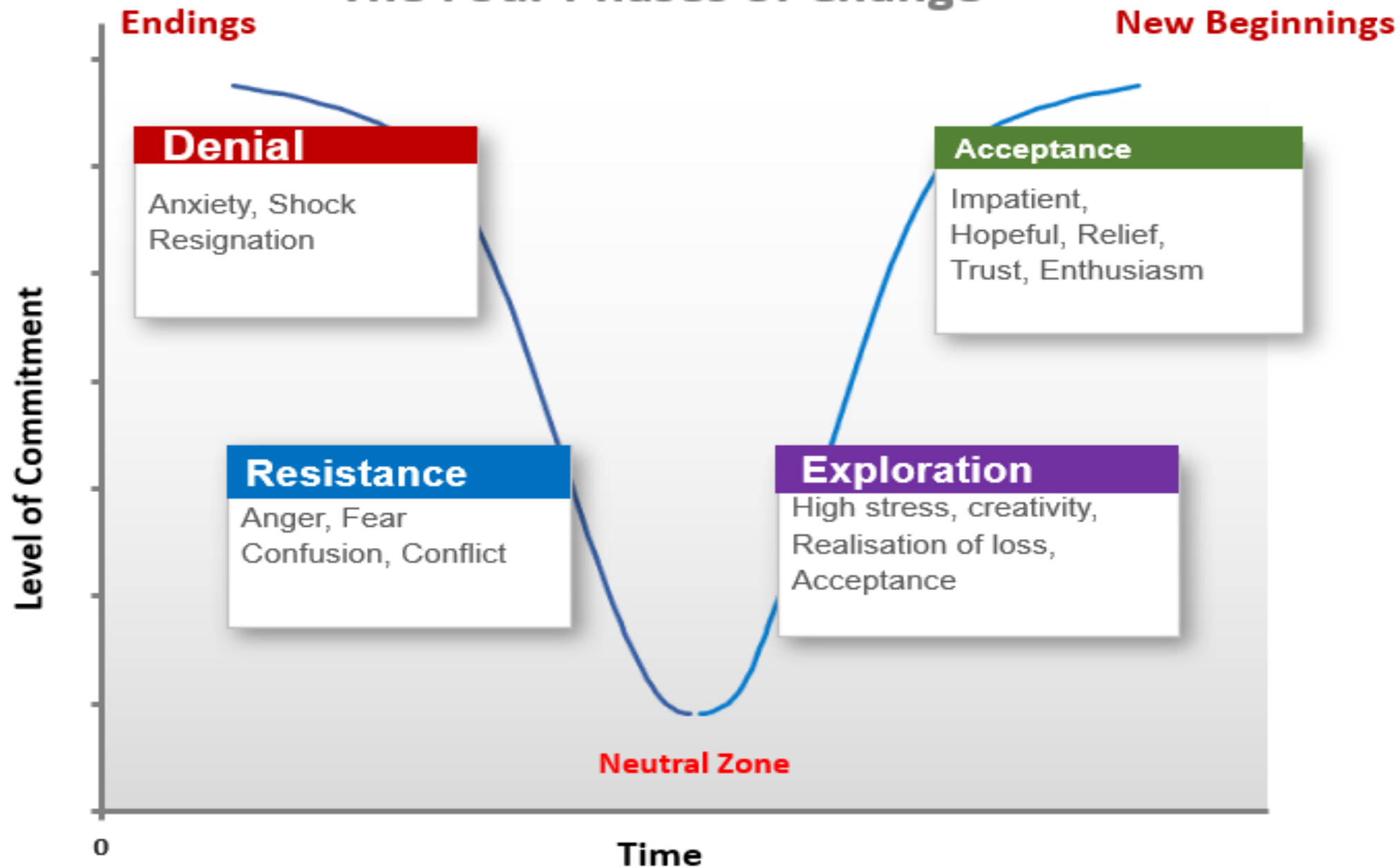


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DISCUSSION GROUPS

The Four Phases of Change



NEXT STEPS

- Pray the “All Things New” prayer daily
- Plan and participate in local, regional, and diocesan gatherings



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