

Charting the Course: Forming the Parish as a Community of Small Communities

Links and Resources

Scripture

(Passages cited in the text are from *New Revised Standard Version Bible, Catholic Edition*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993.)

On planning

- Ezra 6:1–17 Rebuilding the Temple of Jerusalem: Goal: 3–5; Resources: 6–10; Action: 11–15; Celebration: 16–17.
- Proverbs 21:5 “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want.”
- Mark 13:11 Do not over-plan when appearing before famous, impressive, or intimidating persons.
- Luke 10:1–20 Jesus appoints seventy disciples in pairs to every town and place where he intends to go.
- Luke 14:28–30 “For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?”
- John 17:20–21 “...That they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you.”
- 1 Corinthians 14:40 “All things should be done decently and in order.”

Planning and the Lord

- Jeremiah 29:11 “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”
- Proverbs 3:6 “In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”
- Proverbs 16:1–25 “The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.”
- Proverbs 19:21 “The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.”

Importance of advisers in planning

- Proverbs 15:22 “Without counsel, plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed.”
- Proverbs 20:18 “Plans are established by taking advice....”

Goals

- 2 Corinthians 5:9 “So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.”

- Philippians 3:14 "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."
- 1 Timothy 1:5 "But the aim [goal] of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith."

Organization and leadership

- Luke 22:24–27 "The greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves."
- John 13:1–20 Jesus washes the feet of his disciples.
- Matthew 23:1–12 "The greatest among you will be your servant."
- Romans 12:3–13 A variety of roles and gifts is involved in building up the Body of Christ.
Ephesians 4:11–13
1 Corinthians 12:1–13

Conciliar Documents

The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen gentium)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html

References to the mission of the Church, at all levels within the Church's activities, appear throughout the document.

On the Mission Activity of the Church (Ad gentes)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651207_ad-gentes_en.html

Multiple references to mission and evangelization throughout the document.

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et spes)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

5: The human intellect is broadening its dominion over time: over the past by means of historical knowledge; over the future, by the art of projecting and by planning.

70: Planning within the context of principles governing socioeconomic life

Papal Documents

As the Third Millennium Draws Near (Tertio millennio adveniente) (November 14, 1994),

John Paul II. http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_letters/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_10111994_tertio-millennio-adveniente_en.html

Calls for a renewed commitment to the teachings of Vatican II as the best preparation for the new millennium. Reflects on the goal of unity among all Christians and the need for the Church to ask forgiveness.

The Church in America (Ecclesia in America) (January 22, 1999) John Paul II

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_22011999_ecclesia-in-america_en.html

On the encounter with the living Jesus Christ: the way to conversion, communion, and solidarity in America.

An important exhortation to pursue faith formation on every level of parish life. Offers both vision and practical guidelines for making learning a regular part of parish life.

Sons and Daughters of the Light: A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults, United States Catholic Conference, Inc. (January, 1997). <http://www.usccb.org/publishing/youth.htm#youngadult>
Provides a comprehensive and workable plan of action for ministering to young adults.

Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century

Kleissler, Thomas A., Margo A. LeBert, Mary C. McGuinness. *Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century*, revised and updated. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997.

A major portion of this book deals directly or indirectly on the topic of *Charting the Course*. (To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/voh.html>)

See: Part II—The Pastoral Direction and its Implementation;
Part III—Concrete Approaches and Benefits (chapters 12 and 16).

Books

Archdiocese of Omaha. *A Pastoral Plan for Young Adult Ministry*. Omaha, NB: KP Printing, 1994. A plan of action for ministering to the young adults of the archdiocese developed by the Young Adult Advisory Board.

Baranowski, Arthur R. *Creating Small Church Communities A Plan for Restructuring the Parish and Renewing Catholic Life: Third Revised Edition*. Father Art Baranowski updates his story of a pastor's vision of Church and a parish's journey to renewal. "This book is an effort to share the vision which inspired us as well as the nuts and bolts of how we did what we did," says Father Baranowski.

Craig, Dorothy. *Hip Pocket Guide to Planning and Evaluation*. Austin, TX: Learning Concepts, 1978. Deals with management skills in planning and evaluation through such topics as problem defining, setting goals and objectives, choosing strategies, and designing evaluation processes.

DeSiano, Frank, CSP, and Kenneth Boyack, CSP. *Creating the Evangelizing Parish*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1994. A broad-ranging treatment of parish organization, resources, and evangelization.

DeSiano, Frank, CSP. *Evangelization: A Parish Planning Workbook*. Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1998. Presents the seven elements and three goals of Catholic evangelization and asks the parish evangelization team to name the parish's particular evangelizing gifts as well as its needs.

Howes, Robert, G. *Parish Planning: A Practical Guide to Shared Responsibility*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1994. Stressing the importance of quantification as well as piety and the critical role of pastors and councils. Father Howes provides citations and parallels from current writings on secular organizational "plangement." Readers will find this work a think book, a workbook, and a treasure trove of thirty years of hands-on, practical experience.

Lifelong Learning: An Omnibus of Practice and Research. Washington, D.C.: American Association of Adult and Continuing Education. A journal published eight times a year containing articles by practitioners in adult education.

National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association. *A Blueprint for Young Adult Ministry*. Washington, D.C.: National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association, 1994. A short reflection discussing what young adult ministry is and the foundational and operational principles for ministry with young adults.

Ratcliff, Donald, and Blake J. Neff. *The Complete Guide to Religious Education Volunteers*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1993. Shows religious educators how to plan, administer, and evaluate their volunteer program.

United States Catholic Conference. *Empowered by the Spirit*. Washington, D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1985. The U.S. bishops' pastoral plan for ministry on the campus. To order: <http://www.usccb.org/publishing/schools.htm#campusministry>

RENEW International Resources

RENEW 2000 & Beyond/Core Community Handbook. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997. Provides workshops and formation sessions to assist Core communities in their growth into communities of faith that both model and lead the parish in the twenty-first century. (To order: tel. 1-800-218-1903; fax: (201) 825-8345; e-mail: paulistp@pipeline.com.)

RENEW 2000 & Beyond/Leadership Book. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997. Provides tools and strategies that can be used not only for RENEW 2000, but also for an ongoing communal style of parish life. (To order: tel. 1-800-218-1903; fax: (201) 825-8345; e-mail: paulistp@pipeline.com.)

IMPACT Series

The Time of Your Life, Mary C. McGuinness. How time is spent and how your main activities impacts your life and the lives of others (six sessions). (To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/timelifeimp.html>.)

Web Site Links

<http://www.catholic-evangelization.org>

The National Council for Catholic Evangelization, founded in 1983, exists to affirm, motivate, and network Catholic evangelization efforts throughout the United States.

<http://www.cppcd.org>

The Conference for Pastoral Planning and Council Development (CPPCD) is a national Catholic organization devoted to the promotion of pastoral planning and the development of pastoral councils at the (arch)diocesan and parish levels. CPPCD promotes shared responsibility at every level of the Church through consultative processes. CPPCD provides services to bishops, (arch)dioceses, parishes, and other Catholic groups, and supports national research through the Catholic Research Forum.

<http://www.cppcd.org/CRF>

The Catholic Research Forum's purpose is to share the results of applied empirical research about the Catholic Church with people who can use the research fruitfully in their ministries. The Forum dialogs regularly with the U.S. Bishops' Conference, individual bishops, canon lawyers, pastoral planners, and others who are in leadership positions in (arch)dioceses or parishes.

<http://www.georgetown.edu/research/cara>

Home page for the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate offers information and resources.

<http://www.nfcym.org/>

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry home page offers information and resources.

<http://www.pncea.org>

The Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, founded in 1977, builds up the body of

Christ by equipping active Catholics for the work of evangelization and by proclaiming the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ to inactive Catholics and the unchurched.

<http://www.usccb.org>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) address a broad spectrum of Catholic concerns—from prayers and worship to the state of the economy, from revitalizing parishes to averting nuclear war, from promoting vocations to protecting life at all stages.

<http://www.west.net/~fischer>

Parish Pastoral Councils Web site, authored by Mark F. Fischer, a Catholic theologian and professor who has written more than 50 articles on Pastoral Councils, provides information on councils and pastoral planning, spirit and management of councils, nature of consultation, and resources on planning.