

Parish Leader Resources

For pastors and staff to inform parishioners about Parish Leaders.

It all begins in prayer

- Hold a gathering to pray for the leadership of our parish, including our priests, deacons, Parish Leaders and laity who hold leadership positions.
- Pray for Parish Leaders as a part of other meetings and events.
- Place the Parish Leaders on your parish Prayer Chain.
- Include the enclosed Intercessions during the Universal Prayer at Mass.

*“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”
1 Peter 4:10*

Share as much information as possible with parishioners

- Publish the enclosed information in the bulletin, on your website, and on bulletin boards.

Start a conversation and discussion at the Parish and in the region

- Priests and deacons are encouraged in homilies to reflect on Pope Francis’ “missionary option” (see below, *Joy of the Gospel*, no. 27-33) and the Parish Leader model.
- Discuss Parish Leadership where people are already gathered—Parish Council, Catechists, Adult Faith Formation Groups, Men’s and Women’s clubs, other ministry groups.
- Hold a Town Hall meeting on leadership in the parish.
- Invite neighboring parishes to gather to pray and discuss the Church in the region.
- Think, plan, and act more regionally for Mass times, Staff, Parish Ministries, and Outreach.
- Invite the Office of Evangelization and Pastoral Planning to join the conversation.

*“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them.”
Romans 12:6*

- **Sample questions for discussion with various parish groups:**

- ◊What are the positive and unique aspects of our parish community?
- ◊What are the weaknesses of our parish community?
- ◊Who are the leaders at our parish in addition to the pastor?
- ◊What would be the challenges of our parish not having a resident pastor (given that the Sacramental life would continue with a priest)?
- ◊What are the opportunities for growth and development of our parish?

◊What would be the opportunities of having a parish leader in our parish or in our region?

“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.”

Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 27.

What can we do to help our parish remain vibrant, sustainable, and growing?

Intentionally develop a strong community of disciples committed to Christ and the Church.

- The Church (and the parish) exist to Evangelize! This means we need to continually keep in mind the three “audiences” of Evangelization:
 - ◊Continual formation and conversion of committed disciples.
 - ◊Prayer, outreach, and creative support of those who are baptized but are not involved in the life of the community.
 - ◊Prayer, outreach, and creatively sharing God’s love to those who are not baptized, evangelized, or catechized.

Read, study, discuss, and implement the Pastoral Plan for Evangelization

- Available online at www.doy.org or request copies from the Office of Evangelization.

Empower all the laity to live their baptismal call to discipleship and ministry

- We are anointed at Baptism & Confirmation with Sacred Chrism.
- The Holy Spirit gives gifts to the individual to build up the community.
- Encourage and support people who serve now.
- Invite and encourage more people to get involved.
- Provide formation opportunities, such as Parish Adult Formation Programs, Catechist Certification, Lay Leader of Prayer, and Lay Ministry Formation Programs.

“We need to avoid the complacent attitude that says ‘we have always done it that way.’”

*Pope Francis
Joy of the Gospel, 33*

Re-imagine the way the Parish operates

- Read and reflect on “Joy of the Gospel” by Pope Francis, especially paragraphs 27-33.
- The Church is the Body of Christ – a living community of many members, active in ministry to the world.
- Mass is the re-remembering of that Body to celebrate (not merely individuals coming to fulfill their obligation).

“I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities.”
Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 33.