



Pastoral Recommendations Project

By the baptized - For the baptized

June 17, 2016

With a vision, the people flourish

See how they love one another

INTRODUCTION

The pastoral recommendations presented here envision an archdiocesan community, lay and ordained, in union with the universal church working together to be the sign of God's kingdom as Jesus taught us. In communion with Pope Francis, we want to be a resurrection people, filled with hope and joy, in service to the world.

When Vatican Council II speaks of the church as "the People of God" it emphasizes its human and communal aspects before it talks about the roles of hierarchy and laity. The experience of everyday believers toward understanding the tradition is affirmed by the Council as "the sense of the faithful".

The mission of this Pastoral Recommendations Project (PRP) is to continue the work begun at the Second Vatican Council and developed over the last 50 years in our local church to involve and support the laity in collaboration with ordained leaders to co-create the community we envision.

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is experiencing one of the most challenging periods in its history. Civil and criminal suits arising from child sexual abuse by clergy, bankruptcy, and the resignation of two of our leaders have stressed the Catholic community which we love in a deep and deepening way. These most recent stresses are on top of decades of polarization in our local church. The departure of many of our members has been due to these divisions.

In response, the following recommendations have been developed by an informal network of about 100 lay, religious and clergy within the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis. The recommendations are addressed to both the Archdiocesan leadership and to the whole Archdiocesan community.

All of the recommendations require more discussion and development in order to be implemented. Those who have participated in writing the recommendations are willing to be involved in that work.

It is a hope that these recommendations may open broader engagement of the faithful of this Archdiocese in discerning how the Spirit is calling us to be a community manifesting Jesus's core teaching of radical equality, unabashed inclusivity and transforming love.

History

The seed for developing these recommendations was planted in December 2015 when the archdiocese was without an archbishop. During the Open Forum of the December Council of the Baptized meeting, Ken Pierre presented the working paper 'Path to Archdiocesan Recovery' (*See copy in Appendix*). The animated discussion following his presentation showed that there was a deep desire among those in attendance to help move the St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocese on a path toward recovery.

The working paper recommended a path to recovery based on the Vatican II vision of the Church, a vision which sees the Church as a community of equals sharing in the responsibility for the Church's mission and ministry. The discussions focused on engaging the broader Archdiocesan community in the development of recommendations for a pastoral plan through which the local church community could come together to agree on a path forward. These recommendations would be by the baptized for the baptized.

A Steering Committee was formed to guide the effort. In its initial meeting, the Steering Committee asked Jim Moudry to draft a 'Theological Reflection' (*See copy in Appendix*) to expand on the vision of Church initially presented by Ken. The Steering Committee also determined that the scope of the effort needed to focus on what the available (already busy) volunteer resources could accomplish before the Minnesota summer vacation period. They set June 1st, 2016 as the deadline for completing the recommendations. They sought volunteers from the local church community who had interest and experience, and were motivated to work on specific topic areas.

The number of recommendation topics was constrained by the availability of team leaders to gather recommendations from the broader Archdiocesan community within that timeframe. Each team leader sought out members of the broader Church community whom they knew had some experience with the topic they were addressing. The team leaders, then, consolidated the recommendations they received on that topic. They reviewed the drafts of their recommendations at two community meetings, and updated their recommendations based on the feedback from those meetings

Overview of the Recommendations

The recommendations are divided into eight topic areas. The individual documents from the eight topic area teams are included here as they were written. No attempt has been made to homogenize them into a uniform style or approach. They can also be found on the web at

<http://cccr-cob.org/archdiocesan-pastoral-plan-project/prp-recommendations-to-date.html>

The eight topic areas are:

- Promoting Archdiocesan Healing
- Building Structures for Two-Way Communication
- Supporting Social Justice Outreach
- Experiencing Liturgical and Sacramental Life
- Developing the Parish Community
- Fostering Personal Growth and Community Health
- Developing Servant Leadership
- Expanding Women's Roles in Our Church

In addition, Jane Leyden Cavanaugh focused on gathering quotes from the local church community in response to the questions "What would you like to *keep, add or change* about the church in this archdiocese?" (*See quotes in Appendix*).

The Path Forward

The process of developing these recommendations has shown that there is a deep reservoir of individuals within this Archdiocese who love their Church and are willing to be engaged as long as they are brought together as a community of equals and given a voice within the community.

Those who participated in this Pastoral Recommendations Project hope that this is the first step in an ongoing process of engaging the full Archdiocesan community. With supportive leadership, we can come together and discuss our diverse perspectives and share our diverse gifts, making our Archdiocese worthy of the of the exclamation "See how they love one another!"

All members of the local church can use these recommendations as a starting point for their own participation in the mission and ministry of our archdiocese. Readers of this set of documents are welcome to copy them and use them as they see fit for carrying forward the work of Jesus in their setting.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee for this Pastoral Recommendations Project (PRP):

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