

IV. INVITATION/OPPORTUNITY TO ADD OR STRENGTHEN PARISH MINISTRIES FOR A MORE VITAL FUTURE

A. Rationale for and Development of Goals and Priorities

These invitations/opportunities were selected as top priorities in the diocese during the Synod process and were selected by parishes in all the deaneries during the pastoral planning process. The full results can be viewed in the appendix. The priests and pastoral director of the diocese suggest the best way to use this list is for individual or collaborating parishes to prayerfully reflect on the list, select those ministries that they believe will lead to a more vital future, develop a plan, and implement it.

B. Goals and Priorities

Synod List

1. Develop ways to provide greater support for priests.
2. Increase efforts in all areas of faith formation, particularly postConfirmation and formation for adults.
3. Identify ways to evangelize more effectively.
4. Determine opportunities, especially in multi-cultural parish communities, to promote respect and understanding of one another's cultures.
5. Engage parish pastoral councils in the fostering of pastoral activity and promoting transparency on the parish level.

"Rooted in Christ" List

1. Provide a range of group ministry programs to strengthen people's faith and connection with their faith communities, e.g., men's group, women's group, renew style groups, Alpha, and marriage encounter.
2. Focus long-range parish evangelization/welcoming efforts on OCIA, child baptisms, weddings, funerals, and enrollment and retention in Catholic schools and religious education programs.
3. Develop area or regional adult faith formation, which may include Bible study, retreats, lectures, and thematic series.
4. Establish an area or regional approach to young adult ministry for those in the age groups of their 20s and 30s.
5. Study the needs of those who are hurting in the area or region to provide greater assistance and support.
6. Increase efforts to engage more parishioners to share their gifts and talents and become involved with parish efforts to carry out the mission of the Church.