

A STRATEGY FOR EVANGELIZATION

Revive the Faith Life of Our People
Plan to use Our Resources Well for Mission
Evangelize by Inviting Others
to Discover New Life in Jesus Christ and His Church

Taken from the pastoral letter
NEW LIFE: THROUGH THE TENDER COMPASSION OF OUR GOD
By Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens, S.T.D, D.D

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES / KEY IMPLEMENTERS

STAFF

Bishop Andrew Cozzens
Office of Missionary Discipleship (OMD)
Schools Staff
Vocations Office
Communications Office (Comms)
Curia
Director of Parish Planning
Office of Administration (Admin)

ESTABLISHED OR NEW CONSULTATIVE BODIES

Deans
On-going Clergy Formation
Diocesan Pastoral Council
Priests Council
Exec Dir. of CCF and/or CCF Board
Deacon Life Committee

CLERGY, VOLUNTEERS, NEW MINISTRY TEAM(S), INDIVIDUALS

Dcn. Peter Belevance
Priest Leaders
Young Adult Ministry Team
Faith Formation Taskforce
Retreat Ministry Team

PRIORITY: REVIVE

Strategies

1. Help Catholics encounter Jesus as a living person and grow into missionary disciples through explicit proclamation of the Gospel, the Sacrament of Penance, Eucharistic Revival, and healing.

Actions:

- a. Facilitate “Jesus and the Eucharist” small groups and find ways to build off this.
 - i. Track parishes, consider how to build off this. **(OMD / February 2024)**
- b. Research the best Encounter retreats and pilot in the diocese.
 - i. Discern with Priests Council, Deacon Life Committee, and Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) how we should do this – diocese, deanery or parish. **(Bishop / Spring of 2024)**
 - ii. Prepare proposal. **(OMD / Fall of 2024)**
- c. Promote participation in Eucharistic Missionaries from the National Eucharistic Revival.
 - i. Discern with Priests Council, Deacon Life Committee, and DPC whether we should have an “army” of missionary disciples formed for the diocese. If so, should this be completely parish based? **(Bishop / Spring of 2024)**
- d. Hold Encounter events and Mercy Hours with Confession at diocesan and parish level. **(OMD / 2024-2025)**
- e. Work with Priests Council to increase availability for the Sacrament of Penance in parishes and develop strategies about preaching the sacrament.
 - i. Research how often Sacrament of Penance is offered around the diocese. **(Deans / Spring 2024)**
 - ii. Develop preaching and catechesis plan with Priests Council, Deacon Life Committee, and DPC regarding the Sacrament of Penance. **(Bishop / Fall of 2024)**
 - iii. Communicate to priests annually the opportunities to serve as confessors at diocesan events **(OMD / Fall 2024)**
- f. Pilot an “Unbound” team and offer to parishes.
 - i. Unbound training **(Dcn. Peter Belevance / May 2024)**
 - ii. Pilot Unbound ministry **(Dcn. Peter Belevance / Fall 2024)**
- g. Invite Divine Renovation to present to our clergy about making our parishes missionary.
 - i. Determine follow up after Clergy Days. **(On-going Clergy Formation / Spring / Summer 2024)**

- ii. Develop cohort of priests to help implement. **(On-going Clergy Formation / Summer 2024)**
- h. Invite Fr. John Riccardo / Acts XXIX to teach priests about the explicit proclamation of the Kerygma.
 - i. Clergy Days **(On-going Clergy Formation / Spring 2025)**
 - ii. Determine follow up after clergy days. **(On-going Clergy Formation / Summer 2025)**
- j. Track all parish and parishioner participation for future accompaniment and stewardship of gifts. **(OMD & CCF Staff / Fall 2024 and on-going)**

2. Teach accompaniment through small groups and mentors.

Actions:

- a. Notify parishes of which youth attended diocesan youth camps and retreats. **(OMD Clerical Support / Summer of 2024)**
- b. Implement NFCYM Grant to develop accompaniment in seven parishes. **(OMD / Spring 2024 and ongoing)**
- c. Research the best method for helping train parents to accompany other parents in small groups to pass on the faith, then pilot the method.
 - i. Develop Diocesan parent commission to investigate. **(OMD / Spring of 2025)**
 - ii. Develop ministry team in the Diocese to Support this work. **(OMD / Spring - Fall of 2025)**
- d. Research the best method to involve parents in faith formation so they discover they are primary agents, then pilot the method.
 - i. Develop Faith Formation Ministry Team to assist with research and developing a plan **(OMD and Schools Staff / 2025)**
 - ii. Study best time for Sacrament of Confirmation and make a proposal. **(Faith Formation Taskforce / 2025)**
 - iii. Study post confirmation youth ministry activity and make a proposal. **(Faith Formation Taskforce / 2025)**
- e. Research methods to encourage small groups for growth in discipleship across the diocese. **(OMD & CCF Staff 2024-2025)**
- f. Share availability of Spiritual Mentors/Spiritual Directors. **(OMD / Winter 2024-2025)**

3. Offer formation for adults and parents in prayer and the Faith.

Actions:

- a. Offer silent retreat opportunities to teach prayer.
 - i. Discern with Priests Council, Deacon Life Committee, and DPC if this is done at diocesan or parish level. **(Bishop, OMD and Retreat Ministry Team / 2025)**
- b. Circulate resources for prayer.
 - i. Discern with Priests Council, Deacon Life Committee and DPC if this is done at diocesan or parish level. **(Bishop and OMD / 2025)**

4. Continue to cultivate a culture of vocations.

Actions:

- a. Equip Serra Club to keep the question of vocations to priesthood and consecrated life before parishioners. **(Vocations Office / Ongoing)**
- b. Testimonies about religious and priestly vocations at youth camps and Encounter retreats for youth. **(Vocations Office and OMD / Ongoing)**
- c. Create opportunities for discernment groups for youth. **(Vocations Office and OMD / Ongoing)**
- d. Offer “Come and See” opportunities consisting of visits to convents for girls and young adult women of the diocese, in addition to the seminary visits for young men already happening. **(Vocations Office / Ongoing)**
- e. Encourage fellowship of parents who have sons and daughters living religious vocations. **(Vocations Office / Ongoing)**

PRIORITY: PLAN

Strategies

1. Transform diocesan communications for evangelization.

Actions:

- a. Move from a monthly newspaper to a quarterly diocesan magazine. **(Comms and Diocesan Pastoral Council / Summer 2024)**
- b. Engage young adults via social media, inviting them to connect with the Church and one another. **(Comms and Young Adult Ministry Team / Develop Plan in Fall 2024; Implementation 2025)**
- c. Amplify the Bishop’s voice through video, email, and podcasts. **(Comms Develop Plan with Diocesan Pastoral Council and Curia in Fall 2024 / Implementation 2025)**

- d. Research and develop best ways to capture multi-channel demographic data for future communications **(Comms & CCF / Fall 2024)**

2. Begin a dialogue about parish planning with key stakeholders across the diocese.

Actions:

- a. Re-establish Diocesan Pastoral Council to implement pastoral vision. **(Bishop / Spring of 2024)**
- b. Appoint a person to lead parish planning. **(Bishop / Spring of 2024)**
- c. Establish parish planning ministry team. **(Director of Parish Planning / Summer 2024)**
- d. Develop model for parish planning. **(Director of Parish Planning with Priests Council, Deacon Life Committee, and Diocesan Pastoral Council / Fall 2024)**
- e. Establish parameters for parish collaboration by convening clergy and other consultative bodies. **(Director of Parish Planning / Fall 2024)**
- f. Meetings in zones/regions/deaneries **(Director of Parish Planning / 2025)**; then implementation of parish plans. **(Director of Parish Planning / 2025)**

3. Create organizational structures that increase parish/diocesan collaboration and efficiency.

Actions:

- a. Convene ministry-specific groups based on roles across the diocese to discuss collaboration. **(Director of Parish Planning / Fall 2024)**
- b. Discern the roles of Deacons in diocesan ministries and programming. **(Deacon Life Committee and OMD / Begin Fall 2024)**
- c. Research the best way to intentionally manage relationships across the diocese through shared databases, effective communication tools, and other methods; make proposal to the Bishop and DPC. **(Director of Parish Planning / Office of Admin / CCF / Fall 2024 and throughout 2025)**
- d. Assess processes (e.g. HR paperwork and procedures, et. al) to create efficiencies in and among parishes and with the Diocese of Crookston; make proposal to the Bishop and DPC. **(Director of Parish Planning and Office of Admin / Fall 2024 and throughout 2025)**

- e. Determine and utilize CCF role in creating structures to unify stewardship efforts emphasizing accompaniment in use of financial gifts and charisms. **(CCF Staff and CCF Board / Summer & Fall 2024)**

4. Build sustainable stewardship through accompaniment w/ pastors and parish leaders.

Actions:

- a. Create stewardship resources, including communication efforts to all stakeholders, where entire focus is on fulfilling the great commission locally and beyond. **(Exec Dir. of CCF with CCF Board, Diocesan Pastoral Council, and Priests Council / 2025)**
- b. Create Mission Advancement and Stewardship Conference for parish leaders. **(Exec Dir. of CCF with CCF Board / 2025 and ongoing)**
- c. Provide resources for stewardship growth and discernment of gifts through small group and individual accompaniment. **(Exec Dir. of CCF with OMD / 2024-2025)**
- d. Create resources to build *A Future Full of Hope* through sustainable funding and charitable estate planning. **(Exec Dir. of CCF with CCF Board / 2024 and ongoing)**

PRIORITY: EVANGELIZE

Strategies

1. Expose the faithful to the role of the Holy Spirit in Evangelization and help them to discover how to use their gifts and charisms for evangelization.

Actions:

- a. Research retreats that form openness to the Holy Spirit and set people on fire for evangelization.
 - i. Collaborate with Revive priority 1.c. determining whether it is done at diocesan level, deanery level or parish level. **(OMD / proposal by end of 2024)**
- b. Implement a pilot retreat for diocesan level, deanery level or parish level (cf. Revive Priority 1.c.) **(OMD / 2025)**

2. Equip parish leadership to begin thinking in a missionary mode.

Actions:

- a. Host Diocesan Leadership Summits to help Parish Leaders begin to see their parish as mission centers and begin to strategize about evangelization. **(Priest Leaders, Diocesan Pastoral Council, and OMD / 2024-2025)**

- b. Have parish leaders consider the “Discipleship to Missionary Discipleship” exercise (based on Stanz) or another tool. **(OMD / 2025)**
- c. Discern elements of *Going Forth As Disciples* mission year and *Eucharistic Missionary Movement* (3rd Year of the Eucharistic Revival) to engage the faithful. **(OMD / Planning 2024; Implement Fall 2024 and Spring 2025)**
- d. Research evangelistic movements, young adult missionaries, and religious communities to invite to the diocese. **(OMD / 2024-2025)**

3. Prepare the laity to share their gifts as missionary disciples.

Actions:

- a. Research best ways to help laity identify charisms to serve in parish ministries. **(OMD / 2025)**
- b. Help parishes train the laity to share the Gospel through personal testimonies, identify a personal mission, and develop a parish-wide mission connected to Corporal Works of Mercy. **(OMD / Fall 2024 and ongoing)**
- c. Help parishes develop an evangelistic tool.
 - i. Research best evangelistic tools for our context and discern ways to collaborate (Alpha, Evangelical Catholic, Christlife, Catholic Missionary Disciples, etc.) **(OMD / Fall 2024)**
 - ii. Accompany parishes in developing and implementing an evangelistic tool. **(OMD / 2025 and ongoing)**

4. Teach tools for accompaniment of others to the fullness of the Faith.

Actions:

- a. Collaborate with Revive Pillar. **(OMD / 2024-2025)**

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