

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

OFFICE OF PARISH TRANSFORMATION



"The mission of the Office of Parish Transformation is to assist parishes in implementing Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Evangelization and the Diocesan Pastoral Plan."

August 7, 2025

Dear Pastors, Parochial Administrators, Sacramental Ministers, Parish Directors, and Parish Life Coordinators,

Fr. Andrew Ricci, Peggy Schoenfuss and I continue to meet regularly regarding *Office of Parish Transformation* services, updating the timeline and planning for future collective in-services. We have been meeting with our respective assigned clusters to assist them in their efforts to implement *Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Evangelization* and the *Diocesan Pastoral Plan*. There are still a few clusters that we need to meet with, however most of the clusters have met with one of us either in person or virtually, many with their council members, trustees and parish evangelization teams. **We have been inspired by and excited to discover what has been giving life to parishes/clusters so far.** We will each continue to reach out to the pastoral leaders, on at least a quarterly basis, for the clusters we are each working with. Please also feel free to contact me with any questions you may have or additional assistance you may need at any time.

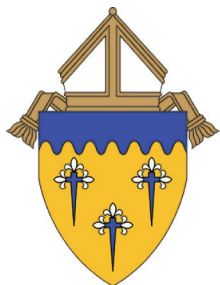
Items of note that we have been stressing at each of these meetings are:

- ❖ Gathering more information regarding what is happening in each parish/cluster since our Initial Survey from April 2025 (General Progress, Deeper understanding of Evangelization and Mission, Leadership styles, leadership team construct and so on.)
- ❖ The Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Evangelization and implementing the four phases of evangelization (See the Pathways Resource on our website.)
- ❖ The Diocesan Pastoral Plan, with particular emphasis on the Pillar 4 Check List; with the overall four umbrella questions: Where are we now: Where do we need to go? How do we get there? And How will we know if we are succeeding?
- ❖ Budgeting for Mission
- ❖ Accepting, Embracing and Navigating Change
- ❖ Revisions to the Articles and Bylaws for Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Councils
- ❖ Referral to other diocesan staff as needed
- ❖ Goal setting for mission and Strategic Planning Methodologies

The list above is also your template of what you should be working on now.

More information will be provided within the next few months regarding the actual deadline for submitting your annual goals to the diocese, as well as an electronic format for submission of your goals --- 3-5 total annual goals per year; including mission goals and at least one maintenance goal. Please continue to work on goal setting locally until we provide the format for official submission. Remember to work with your Office of Transformation contact if you need help with the goal setting process. The next update will also include parish/cluster statistics (Parish Snapshots) that will also help in reviewing the Pillar IV Checklist and for your goal setting. An explanation of how to use those statistics in your goal setting process will be included.

Director Parish Transformation: Mrs. Christine Newkirk
1201 HUGHITT AVENUE • P.O. BOX 969 • SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN 54880
[7153940204] [cnewkirk@catholicdos.org]



DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

OFFICE OF PARISH TRANSFORMATION



We look forward to continually supporting each cluster by coaching them, assisting in goal setting, and tailoring training to meet your unique local parish/cluster needs while moving from maintenance to mission.

Please continue to use the resources that are on the *Parish Transformation* link on our website. That link is provided here: <https://www.catholicdos.org/parish-transformation>. Please make note of the *Pillar IV Checklist*, which will aid you in your goal setting and strategic planning. We have also been discussing providing some training videos in the future. So, keep a watchful eye.

Please stay in directed communication with your diocesan representative from the Office of Parish Transformation on any specific needs and support. Feel free to provide us with ideas for needed in-services and training that can be done by deanery or that we can create short video resources for that you would find helpful. Your feedback to us will help us continually move forward and always improve our diocesan pastoral plan.

In addition, be sure that you also take some time to visit the Office of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship link <https://www.catholicdos.org/evangelization-resources>. This link provides resources specifically regarding evangelization, including short video clips, that you will find helpful as you continue to intentionally form your councils and committees for mission. Let's focus on keeping the "main thing the main thing" and continue to reinforce the vision of maintenance to mission in whatever ways possible.

Until then, keep up the good work and know that we are here to assist in any way we can to help your parish/cluster be successful in implementing Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Evangelization and the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Christ's Peace and Blessings,
Christine Newkirk

Cc: Most Reverend James P. Powers, Fr. Andrew Ricci, Mrs. Peggy Schoenfuss