



A REASON TO HOPE

God's Faithfulness in our Strategic Planning

THE DIOCESE OF
HOUMA  THIBODAUX



ATTENDANCE IS UP

We observed a 3% decrease in Mass attendance each year for 13 straight years. Overall, in the last two years, we have recorded an *increase* in Mass attendance.



100% ENGAGEMENT

Each church parish throughout our diocese is engaged with our diocesan strategic planning process and has crafted a unique plan to guide its renewal.



FOCUSED ON ADULTS

Every church parish is focusing on better formation for adults and intends to begin small groups for adults within the next two years.



ENGAGING YOUTH

Every church parish is actively engaged in the reform and renewal of the formation of their youth.



MORE HOPE

In a recent survey, 90% of our priests reported that they have more hope today than ever before.

“Different parishes are in different places
...each going at their own pace,
but we’re all moving in the same direction.”

- Bishop Shelton Fabre



“ There are a lot of stereotypes about what you’re supposed to be if you’re gonna go to church, and what you’re supposed to know and be able to say and do. A lot of people get intimidated by all that.

I think small groups help get around the stereotypes.

Small groups bring people in and say, ‘It’s okay, we don’t know it all either. We’re going to work together.’

I think for the first time people are being able to let their guard down, talk face to face with others,

and know that **SOMEONE CARES**

ABOUT WHAT’S GOING ON IN THEIR LIFE.”

- Kevin & Angel, *Parishioners*

ADULTS

“ I saw these people in church all the time, but I really didn’t know them. Conversation remained on the surface. By the end of eight weeks of small group, I really know them now, and they know me. It brings you close to people.”

- Donald, *Parishioner*

“ You knew that the mentors really cared about you. When you know that they’re caring about you, you can know that God cares about you too. Rather than just being something out far away, you know He’s here. He’s here through these people, He’s here through the Church, and you know that He cares about you and He loves you.”

- Trey, *High School Senior*

YOUTH

“ When asking one of our teens about why she invited her friend to our youth night, she said **IT FELT LIKE A REFUGE** from everything that was happening in her life - all the stress and pressures of school or at home. It was a place to be happy and be loved, and she wanted to share that with her friends.”

- Rebecca, *Coordinator of Youth Formation*

“ Today, I see greater unity and fraternity amongst the priests of our diocese than I’ve seen throughout my years here as bishop.”

- Bishop Shelton Fabre

PRIESTS

“ There is a brotherhood that runs deep in our presbyterate. We make it a point to spend time together and support one another in our priestly life. I am not just a part of a presbyterate, **I AM PART OF A FAMILY.** My brother priests are truly my brothers.”

- Fr. Andre Melancon

Learn more about the great things going on in our diocese at:

htdiocese.org/hope



Watch the videos.
Hear the testimonies.
Know the story.

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