

## FROM YOUR PASTOR

I mentioned last week that members of Central Services of the Archdiocese of Detroit will be guiding parishes over the next three years in a review of their current parish activities and operations to determine if or how they support the vision of evangelization. Each parish will also be guided in forming strategic plans to direct its evangelizing efforts in the future. Parishes will also conduct a fund raising effort to support these strategic plans and those of the Archdiocese of Detroit. The following outlines this process, which will take place in our parish in either the fall of 2020 or the spring of 2021.

First of all, the pastor will form a Parish Visioning Team made up of one or two staff persons and four or five lay leaders. This team will be chosen based on their familiarity with Unleash the Gospel and having the qualities or skills to help guide the Missionary Strategic Planning process. They will also be willing to pray and be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit for their parish.

Secondly, the Parish Visioning Team (PVT) will begin to prepare the parish for the process and will announce the individuals from the AOD who will accompany the parish through the process. There will be an orientation for the PVT to understand the process and to set expectations. They will be formed in an understanding of the missionary journey of the Archdiocese and of the foundational conviction of the Unleash the Gospel pastoral letter.

Thirdly, the process will begin with the PVT to rethink how the parish should be organized, so that every parish resource and effort will be aligned with our goal to share the Gospel message and help others to encounter Christ. The PVT will be encouraged to think big and outside the box. They will then begin to draft a vision and mission for the parish that aligns with the proposals of Unleash the Gospel. They will create an initial plan and identify priorities around the five Synod of 2016 propositions related to families, parishes and schools.

Fourthly, the parish as a whole will continue to pray for the PVT throughout the process, whose members will communicate with the parish as they form the initial plan. Every member of the parish will have the opportunity to review the work of the PVT and offer feedback.

Finally, the PVT, after engaging with members of the parish, will write the Missionary Strategic Plan for the parish. This plan will be responsive to the five propositions of Synod of 2016, action oriented, measurable and achievable within three to five years.

Next week, I will summarize the steps that will occur in approving the plans and in developing a fund raising effort to support the plans.

Blessings,

Fr. John