

Assumptions

ASSUMPTIONS FOR USE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

Assumptions inherent in this planning process include:

1. The Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ and his Paschal Mystery are both central to our faith and to this planning process. Possible changes in parish, school and Diocesan structures resulting from the planning process are examples of the life-death-resurrection mystery.
2. A commitment to the Eucharist, prayer and the spirituality of communion and mission is a necessary component of the planning process.
3. Parishes exist for the mission of the Church as a presence of Christ within the local church.
4. Stewardship of human, financial and facility resources is essential for advancing and supporting the quality of parish and Diocesan life.
5. A shared, communal vision of the Church is more important than any solely individual or personal vision of the Church and must serve the common good. People must be encouraged to think positively toward the future on both the parish and Diocesan levels, always in communion with the Universal Church.
6. Respecting distinctive and established ecclesial roles and responsibilities as well as effective and collaborative pastoral leadership by clergy, religious and laity are needed for planning to succeed.
7. Effective parish planning must be ongoing and oriented toward the future, not simply a matter of crisis management. Collaboration among parishes whenever possible is the desirable result of such planning. To create a sense of common ownership while diminishing resistance in the parish and region, those most affected by planning should be invited by parish leadership to participate as fully as possible in planning.
8. When planning is done at the local level and there is meaningful involvement by those who will be affected by the changes, there is more ownership of and less resistance to planning (subsidiary).
9. Planning resources will be provided in English and in other languages appropriate to populations when necessary.
10. Support for pastors and staff should be made available to explore issues of transition and change.