

Diocesan Visioning Process – Leadership Summit

Preliminary Theme or Vision Statements

As Bishop Ricken opened the Diocesan Visioning Process Leadership Summit he shared how pleased he was with all the thoughts, ideas and insights that had been gathered in preparation for this weekend. He noted how the Holy Spirit has been involved in the process and in the wonderful work that had already been done. The People of God in the diocese have spoken loudly. He then went on to say how he was looking forward to spending the weekend listening and working with those gathered as together they begin to translate the many streams of insight and dreams into recommendations that the bishop will use in the drafting of a pastoral letter and plan for the diocese for the next 5-7 years. The pastoral letter is targeted to be distributed via the COMPASS and mailing to every household in the diocese on June 3, 2011.

What follows are drafts of six vision statements or six themes that emerged from the Discovery and Dreaming Process of the Diocesan Visioning Process and the deliberations of the Leadership Summit. Vision statements are statements of what kinds of things will be happening in parishes if the various aspects of the diocesan pastoral plan are implemented. These are not listed in any order of priority and they do not include many exciting yet practical ideas and suggestions made by Summit participants on strategies that may be incorporated into the final pastoral plan to help parishes to make these visions a reality in their parish.

Welcoming Family Like Parish Communities

We are a Catholic community welcoming all to the celebration of the Eucharist. Our parish life fosters an inclusive environment that creates and builds relationships with all peoples united together as children of God. Through these relationships, we walk with each other on our faith journeys and challenge one another to grow in relationships with Christ and the Church.

Youth, Young Adults, Families

We provide a community and network for youth and young adults, and families in our diocese. The Catholic community equips every individual with the tools needed to answer the call to discipleship, embrace their Catholic identity, and live the gospel with courage in all their transitions through life stages, aided by sacraments, in a life of prayer, service, and sharing.

Parish Leadership

As Catholics invited by the Lord through our baptism by water and the Holy Spirit, we are raised up to be leaders – ordained and non-ordained, to inspire by lives of holiness, to guide by example and to give hope through service to all people as we carry on the mission given by the Lord to His church

Note: as a way of emphasizing the importance of leadership for and with the growing Hispanic community in the diocese, the Summit task group working in this area presented their vision statement in both English and Spanish

Como Católicos, Somos

Invitados por el Señor a través de nuestro Bautismo por agua. El Espíritu Santo somos levantados a ser líderes ordenados y no-ordenados a inspirar, vidas en santidad guiadas por ejemplos. Y dar esperanza a través. Del servicio a toda la gente como nosotros llevamos la misión dada por el Señor a su iglesia.

Sunday Eucharist

Sunday mass is a joyful gathering where we consciously participate in the celebration of the source and summit of our faith – the Eucharist. We are transformed through the word of God proclaimed and preached and through the body and blood of Jesus Christ offered and received. Renewed by the Eucharist, we go forth to make disciples in the world around us.

Evangelization

Evangelization is helping people come to know the love of God and drawing them into a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church. We open our hearts to God's word, turn away from sin,

and put the Gospel into daily practice. We joyfully share with others how God has touched us and welcome them to experience the Good News of Jesus Christ. We as individuals and as a parish accept this responsibility because of our baptism.

Social Justice and Charity

Our community focuses on social justice and charity issues through awareness, education and action. The parish is the heart of the community that lives the Gospel message of caring for all God's people by embracing respect for human dignity from conception to natural death. Through education that stems from and flows out of the gospel message of Jesus Christ, we go and serve others.

During one of the final sessions of the Leadership Summit one of the pastors exclaimed "As a pastor when I look at all this I am scared to heck! However, when I think that in the course of the next 5-7 years my parish might be asked to work on one or two of these areas per year – then I can relax. We can do this" In his closing remarks at the diocesan Leadership Summit Bishop Ricken thanked everyone for their hard work. He reaffirmed that implementation of many of the ideas and suggestions will need to unfold slowly over the next 5-7 years. He also reminded everyone that there are a lot of important ministries and programs, though not specifically mentioned in the six key theme statements, they are still important and will need to continue as well.

Bishop Ricken has subsequently reported that in the drafting of his pastoral letter, he is considering adding a **seventh theme** which will may be entitled "**Lifelong Faith Formation.**" This theme or vision statement will underscore the importance of faith formation for all throughout their lives including children, youth, young adults, adults, seniors, etc. through various faith formation programs and schools.