

Diocese of Austin Pastoral Plan Overview

What is the purpose of the diocesan pastoral plan?

We want the Diocese of Austin to actively choose its future because we want to be good stewards of the gifts and talents with which God has blessed us. There are many exciting things that we can do as a diocese, but only if we have common agreement and work together.

What does the plan focus on?

The plan focuses on a common vision and five strategies to implement it.

Diocesan Vision Statement

We are committed to strengthening our Christ-centered parishes. Therefore the Diocese of Austin will provide formation and education to laity, religious and clergy so they may be leaven to transform our parishes and renew the world.

Five Strategies

1. Conversion to Christ: Call all people to ongoing conversion to Christ.
2. Holy Families: Nurture and strengthen families.
3. Young People: Integrate youth and young adults more fully in our parishes.
4. Welcoming Communities: Renew efforts to become more welcoming parishes.
5. Strong Leaders: Develop leaders for our local church.

How is this plan different from previous plans?

This plan is unique because it is focused on parishes. Previous plans focused on building diocesan infrastructure – this plan focuses on strengthening our Christ-centered parishes. We consulted with over 400 people from 74 parishes in town hall meetings to develop the plan. And just as people from parishes throughout the diocese helped create this pastoral plan, so we want all parishes to help with its implementation.

What are parishes being asked to do?

If this pastoral plan is to have an impact on parish life, then it must be implemented from the bottom-up, not the top-down. So we are asking each parish to plan how it can best implement the five strategies. This bottom-up approach is the best way to make sure that what is offered in each parish meets the needs of that parish.

What will the pastoral plan achieve?

Imagine the impact of over 100 parishes in the diocesan of Austin working together towards a common goal – to become more Christ-centered. If we can work together with this focus for the coming five years, the results will be truly transformative.