

**ArchBishop Sartain Remarks at Priest Days**  
**Where Saint Patrick Parish stands in relation to his vision for Archdiocese**

- 1. *We are a dynamic diocese. Facing challenges, but not overwhelmed because of incredible vitality of our local church***
  - a. Parishioners have embraced new leadership model. \*\*\* Fundamentals continue; robust Pastoral Council (24 candidates last 2 years); new Council Commission structure; 14 Stephen Ministers; new Mission - Values - Priorities for parish.
- 2. *Priest shortage will not be resolved in the near future***
  - a. Saint Patrick prepared to continue under current model of lay pastoral coordinator and parish priest(s).
- 3. *Overall Decline in Sacraments***
  - a. Re-evaluating our approach to sacramental preparation for all Sacraments
  - b. New RCIA team forming - parish priest is key member of team of lay leaders
  - c. Open to revising age and "process" for Confirmation - (e.g. 7th grade / 2 years)
  - d. Address decline in Mass attendance by reaching out to those not here - discussing "Alpha" program with other quadrant parishes.
- 4. *Loss of Youth***
  - a. Education and Young People are 2 of 3 parish Priorities. Pastoral and Finance Council approved use of recent Bequest funds to hire full time youth minister
  - b. Collaborating with other quadrant parish youth programs
  - c. Staff open to "youth mass" for parish / quadrant - not sure what will look like.
- 5. *Vision of Evangelizing to form Missionary disciples - Encounter with Christ - lifelong growth in relationship with Jesus***
  - a. See our new Mission - Values - Priorities. Right on point.
- 6. *Eliminate chancery and parish silos - collaborate among all aspects of parish life***
  - a. Our new All Council Commission structure meets one night a month. Pastoral Council, Finance/Facility, Faith Formation, Development, and Liturgy Commissions meet same night and share info with each other.
  - b. 50 people now know what only the pastor used to know about the parish.
- 7. *Promote service to the poor - Charity and Corporal Works of Mercy***
  - a. Area of improvement for Saint Patrick Parish.
  - b. Forming Pastoral Care groups to promote this aspect of Discipleship
  - c. Use existing organization (CCS, AM) rather than re-invent parish program
- 8. *Pastoral Planning - Re-distribution of resources; lower burden on priests; eliminate culture of convenience; Mass time changes; greater use of lay leaders; goal remains 1 parish - 1 pastor; use both until things change; re-configuring parishes will happen - avoid Protestant "congregationalist mentality" - we are a Universal church.***
  - a. Collaborating w/ Pierce Deanery / 5 quadrant parishes / merging w/ St. Rita
- 9. *Joy of the Gospel / Being a Disciple of Jesus; personal commitment to prayer***
  - a. See Mission, Values, Priorities - right on point

\*\*\* *The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. . . . if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be "the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters".*