

Future of Parish Leadership in the Diocese

Worksheet for Regional Pastoral Councils and Parish Pastoral Councils and ANY PARISHIONER

Suggestion: each member of the Council to spend a week or more in prayerful reflection upon these questions, asking for the Spirit's guidance and for openness to the insights of other members; and then at the Council meeting, to discuss the questions.

The Council might conclude its discussion at one meeting or might decide to spend 2 – 3 Sundays canvassing the views of parishioners on these topics, considering these views at a second meeting.

The desired outcome is to send your considered insights to Bishop Greg O'Kelly to assist him in planning for the future.

All results to be in the hands of the Bishop by the 2nd Sunday of Easter (8th April 2018).

See

1. What is actually happening?
 - a. Our parish – our numbers, age profiles, pastoral initiatives, ministries we are currently called to...
 - b. Leadership in the parish – people who are capable and willing to take responsibilities...
 - c. Gaps and needs – apostolic work that could be getting done but isn't...
 - d. Our finances – are we confident we know how our parish finances are going? How are they going...
2. Who is being affected by the way we do things at present, and the resources we can bring to bear? (e.g., young people... The elderly... The poor... People isolated by distance or social factors...)
3. Why is this happening?
 - a. Be brave – what are the factors? Discuss with others, to refine your insights on this...

Judge

1. What do I/we think about this? What's giving us life and hope in our parish? What is causing us discouragement or worry?
2. What do I/we think should be happening? Again, be brave: what sacrifices or bold steps might we need to make? What changes might the diocese consider?
3. What does my/our faith tell me/us about this? Bishop Greg reminds us of our baptismal calling, to build the Kingdom of God in our area. What do you think you and your parish are called to? What would Jesus see as the priorities where you are?

Act

Remember the project: **The Future of Parish Leadership in the Diocese**

1. What would I/we like to change? That is, what is the long-term goal? What would parish leadership in our region and our Diocese look like by 2023, and in 2030?
2. What is the first step? Am I/we prepared to be participants, to meet the challenge of providing the pastoral leadership that each faith community in the Diocese will need, as the number of priests declines?
3. Who do we need to involve in our action? Who should we try to work with? What resource people can we tap into? What gifts, perhaps underutilised at present, can we engage in furthering our vision and making it a reality? Who else has common interests with us?

YOUR RESPONSES ARE VITAL FOR GOOD FEEDBACK, GOOD GENERATION OF IDEAS AND ASSISTANCE TO THE BISHOP AND HIS TEAM TO HELP DISCERN THE BEST WAYS FORWARD... PRAYER IS VITAL – YOUR RESPONSES ARE, IN A REAL SENSE, A REPLY TO PRAYER!

PLEASE SEND RESPONSES TO: Most Rev G O'Kelly SJ, PO Box 1206, Port Pirie SA 5540