

## Guiding Principles of the Post 2020 Plan – Part II

Rich Harter, M.T.S.

Director of Missionary Planning and Leadership

Last month I introduced you to the list of “Guiding Principles” that form the heart of our Post 2020 planning vision and process. This month, I would like to explore the first two principles more deeply so as to discover how they give shape to our leadership and provide a vision for the future Church.

The first principle calls us to be “**Rooted in fervent prayer** and reliant upon the Divine Providence of God.” From Jesus and his first disciples, to the saints throughout the ages, to the leaders of today’s Church, we find our identity and our direction, first and foremost, in prayer.

When you think of the prayer that Jesus taught us, we realize that the Our Father is about our true identity as children of the Father. That identity finds its perfect expression in worship as we “hallow” God’s name, and lead with a longing for God’s kingdom. We pray our way into the future by letting God be God, and trusting that his promised plan will come to fulfillment.

The second principle of missionary leadership and planning is choosing to be “**Mission-driven** with a singular focus on proclaiming Christ and making disciples through the Sacramental Life of the Church.” We learn from Jesus that this is both who we are as leaders and where we go as planners. We are disciples of Christ who go and make new disciples of Christ (Mt. 28:16-20).

To be “mission-driven” there are two essential movements. The first is about our leadership. We need to be disciples who continually seek, choose, and follow Jesus. We lead by following. The second movement is about the directionality of our leadership and planning. We are fruitful when we help others, inside and outside the parish, seek, choose, and follow Jesus.

Ultimately, we know we are leading and planning faithfully when we are disciples who make disciples, and then those disciples go and make new disciples! We are disciples and disciple-makers who make new disciples and disciple-makers. This is our mission: to proclaim Christ and make disciples through the Sacramental Life of the Church.

### Leading People to Christ:

#### Guiding Principles for Parish and School Planning in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

- **Rooted in fervent prayer** and reliant upon the Divine Providence of God.
- **Mission-driven** with a singular focus on proclaiming Christ and making disciples through the Sacramental Life of the Church.
- **Focused on growth of the Church** and Her mission with confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit unleashed at Pentecost.

- **Strengthening the Catholic impact** by identifying and coordinating effective ways for parishes and schools to collaborate in advancing the Church's mission.
  - **Accompanying ordained and lay leaders** by supporting them, affirming their gifts, and equipping them for missionary leadership.
  - **Practicing subsidiarity** to ensure that planning initiatives are designed, owned, and implemented through broad consultation and local collaboration, under the authority of the archbishop.
  - **Allowing for new models of leadership and mission** that are both faithful to the Church's Tradition and bold in missionary outreach, especially in urban and rural contexts.
- ) **Data-informed** to ensure that planning initiatives are grounded in key indicators such as financial sustainability, potential for growth, facility analysis, sacramental trends, producing vocations, etc.