

Strategic Planning ... *An invitation to begin the conversation*

Michael Davis, Office of Lay Ministry

Hospitality is a gift that we extend to others and receive as a guest when we happen to visit them at their home, church, or in their pasture or field.

Listening and responding in thoughtful and reflective ways are the hallmarks of a 'good visit' with our neighbors.

Now, you are being invited to add your voice to the dialogue that is beginning about the Strategic Plan for the Diocese of Grand Island.

You can do so by visiting the Diocesan website and reading through the *Guide for Strategic Planning for the Diocese of Grand Island*. Or you can ask to review a printed copy that was sent out last month to parishes and deaneries. To view the online version, go to:



http://www.gidiocese.org/about/Strategic_Plan_Guide.pdf.

The document includes the names and addresses of the committee members who helped guide and form the strategic plan review. Contact them if you'd like to offer your comments or to gain further insight about the plan. Also listed are diocesan ministerial offices that are available to provide information and resources regarding specific topics or needs.

LET'S TALK MORE ABOUT IT

In addition, I am available to assist parishes and deaneries with introducing the Strategic Plan and to begin the process of helping parishes work towards the One Future/Un Futuro Plan.

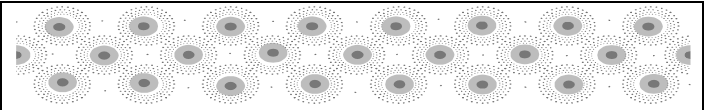
These conversations have already begun and will become more common in the coming months as fellow parishioners become familiar with the information and begin the journey of discovery that it will initiate.

Please keep in mind that this is an on-going discernment of both the strengths and needs within the various structures of our Catholic community. It will prove to be a valuable tool for growth and insight for our near and distant future.

As Abraham Lincoln once said, "Today we are living the reality of decisions and actions of the past and the future will be determined by what we do and not do today."

We are all invited to enter the conversation of both the beauty of Catholic life as being lived out in our parish communities and also to discuss ways in which we can even better reflect Christ's light through our Christian life and witness.

So we collectively proclaim, let the conversations, discernment, and process of strategic planning begin!



"We Roman Catholics of the Grand Island Diocese are disciples of Jesus Christ responding to the call of the Holy Spirit. We dedicate ourselves to full, conscious and active participation in the Church's mission to build God's reign through vibrant, faith-filled Eucharistic communities that proclaim the Gospel in Word, Sacraments, Celebration and Service."

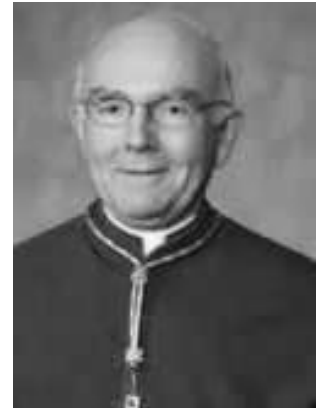
--from the Diocese of Grand Island Mission Statement

Bishop William J. Dendinger says strategic plan guide is simple and easy to use

Excerpt from the document: "Guide for Strategic Plan"

There is an old adage that certainly applies to all parishes, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will do."

Also, if you have all the resources you want, then you don't need to plan. However, with limited resources and personnel, planning is imperative!



As responsible stewards of God's gifts and resources in our parish, we need to have a planning process.

We cannot meet every spiritual and human need immediately. We need to plan and select the best and most important activities to serve God's people. This requires identification, selection and planning.

The planning guide is simple and easy to use.

May God inspire you as you strive to be faithful and responsible stewards and followers of Jesus Christ.