



GENERAL

- 1 Families of Parishes must follow canon law, civil law, all universal and particular Church law, and archdiocesan policies.
- 2 Families of Parishes must develop a pastoral plan for parish vitality, submitted at least annually, reviewed by the dean, to be approved by the archbishop in conformity with the parameters of the Pastoral Planning Pathway according to the published timeline.
- 3 By September 1, 2022, every Family of Parishes must form a Planning Team, led by the pastor, to coordinate pastoral planning geared toward the unification of the Family by June 30, 2027.

EUCHARIST

The Mass is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. Accordingly, the Eucharist is the essential moment for building up and strengthening the parish community, along with the sacraments and other celebrations of the paschal mystery — the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- 4 The regular Mass schedule for a Family of Parishes may not assume more than two Masses per day per priest.
- 5 A regularly scheduled Mass for the Sunday precept must have annual average attendance of at least 50% of the church capacity.

6 The regular Mass schedule must provide the opportunity for priests to spiritually prepare for and be present to the community after Mass.

7 There must be a sufficient number of trained and formed liturgical ministers to serve as readers, servers, EMSHC, music ministers, et al. for liturgical celebrations.

8 Sacramental formation must be provided.

CHURCH

Each of us is called to actively participate as a member of a parish, the Universal Church and our local Church, led by our archbishop. Parishes continually deepen the bonds of communion with other parishes.

9 In pastoral planning and parish life, every Family of Parishes will adhere to the spirit and norms of the Vatican Instruction: “The pastoral conversion of the parish community in the service of the evangelizing mission of the Church.” (2020).

10 Families collaborate with other Families within the deanery to provide coordinated pastoral ministry (e.g. hospitals, care facilities, young adult evangelization, high schools, jails, etc.)

LEADERSHIP

Pastors, in collaboration with parochial vicars, deacons and lay ministers, according to their proper roles and charisms, share responsibility for pastoral leadership. The spiritual, physical and mental health and ongoing support of ordained and lay leaders is vital for Families of Parishes.

11 Every Family of Parishes will have a unified Pastoral Council, with other relevant and necessary consultative groups for specific areas of parish life.

12 The Finance Councils of each parish within the Family will work together to appropriately plan for and monitor the finances of the Family of Parishes.

13 Competent and qualified staff are necessary to serve the Family of Parishes, especially in the areas of worship, evangelization (including love in action), and administration. As is possible, staff will be unified to serve the entire Family.

14 Priests must have a regularly scheduled day off and must be able to take all annual vacation and retreats.

15 Priests, deacons, staff and other lay leaders will participate in ongoing spiritual formation and training for leadership.

STEWARDSHIP

Families of Parishes are communities of grateful disciples. Recognizing God’s gifts, they use their talents, skills and resources to build up the Church and live as Christ’s Body in the world.

16 Every Family of Parishes will form people to embrace stewardship as a way of life.

17 Every Family of Parishes will actively promote vocational discernment.

EVANGELIZATION

As centers of missionary outreach, Families of Parishes find new ways to foster discipleship among all the baptized. Schools, parishes, and indeed the domestic church itself are centers of this essential work.

18 Every Family of Parishes will create and implement a plan that ministers to all persons in every season of life and every stage in the process of evangelization.

19 Every Family of Parishes will have an Evangelization Team, overseen by the pastor and led by competent and qualified staff.

LOVE IN ACTION

Families of Parishes will be communities of charity and justice, serving those most in need and working to change systems that oppress and marginalize.

20 Every Family of Parishes must offer support to their communities through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and promote a culture of life, charity, and justice.

21 Every Family of Parishes will incorporate principles of Catholic Social Teaching into faith formation efforts for youth and adults.

22 Every Family of Parishes will promote intercultural competence and facilitate the participation of all people in the life of the Church.

ADMINISTRATION

The six guiding principles address areas largely related to teaching and sanctifying. The parameters below are focused on the governance of Families of Parishes.

23 The parish/school financial ID # cannot be changed unless a new parish is formed or a parish formally changes its name.

24 Each parish must maintain their own financial and sacramental records until parish territories are merged.

25 Families of Parishes must be fiscally accountable.

26 Parishes within each Family must work together to have an agreed upon and signed shared expense agreement annually when planning the yearly fiscal budget.

27 Each parish/school must follow all policies within the Temporal Affairs Handbook.

28 Every Family of Parishes must follow relevant civil law and archdiocesan policies for information (record) retention and location.

29 Every Family of Parishes must work with the Pastoral Center Department of Human Resources to review staffing models.

30 Each school must follow the approved School Change Process when making structural changes or closure decisions.

COMMUNICATIONS

Effective communications is necessary to share the Good News within the Family of Parishes and throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

31 Every Family of Parishes will utilize the archdiocese-provided census database for managing parishioner contact information and sacramental records.