



BEACONS OF LIGHT

Pastoral Planning Pathway

Love in Action Inventory Tool

This inventory tool is designed to help parish leaders assess one or more aspects of parish life before pastoral planning takes place within the Family of Parishes. Once the inventory tool is completed, it can be shared with leaders in the other parishes within the Family during Phase 1 to increase familiarity among all parishes.

Introduction

As individual parish communities join together as one Family, this inventory serves to help each member parish identify what charity, respect life, social action and inclusion activities are currently taking place. Do not be overwhelmed by this inventory. Your parish is not expected to be doing all of the items listed and everything that is currently being done at your parish is cause for celebration.

No judgements should be made on what is being done or not done. Rather, the purpose of the inventory is to highlight the gifts each member parish brings to the new Family's commitment to promoting God's kingdom of love, peace and justice in the world. Through the forming of Families of Parishes, our communities are getting a little larger which also means that we now have more talents, experiences, traditions and customs to draw upon!

Once each parish completes the inventory tool (ideally Spring of 2022), it will then be shared with the leaders in the other parishes within the Family during Phase 1 (beginning July 2022) to increase familiarity among all parishes. In Phase 1, each Parish Family will be asked to assess collectively the various aspects of parish life for the entire Family, including the ministries that put our Christian Love into action. The Archdiocesan Love in Action Team will be available to assist Parish Families in using these inventories towards a common assessment concerning this principle for the Family as a whole.

Ways to use the Inventory Tool:

- Allow Families of Parishes an opportunity to come together to further build and expand upon what is already being accomplished through the individual parishes, look for opportunities to combine ministries that may be duplicated within the parishes, and spark conversation on where growth may occur.
- Collate all the inventory tools and present them to the incoming pastor as part of his orientation/on-boarding around July 1.
- Provide to the parish staff, pastoral council and other relevant commissions/committees/teams to inform them about the current parish life and inspire their thinking about the future.
- Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate all the positive work that is currently being accomplished.

Ways NOT to use the Inventory Tool:

- Publish them in the bulletin.
- Base an employee evaluation on them.
- Judge other parishes based upon them.
- Assume that areas of needed growth cannot ever improve.

REMEMBER: these inventory tools are for YOU!

Only the leadership of the parishes within the Family will see these, so take this opportunity to give an honest inventory of what's happening and not.

Now Pause...Take in a Deep Breath...Invite the Holy Spirit in to provide guidance, comfort, strength and wisdom. We are embarking on an adventure with the goal of building God's kingdom on Earth.

Let's begin the journey...

Commission

Does your parish have a commission or central organizing entity for charity, respect life, and social justice ministries? If so, please briefly describe its structure.

Please answer "yes" or "no" and, if yes, describe.

Charity

1. Does your parish have an outreach commission or some other group that coordinates charitable giving and/or volunteering?

2. Does your parish have any type of "in-house" outreach (such as an on-site pantry, gift cards, St. Vincent De Paul conference, etc.)?

3. Is your parish involved with any of the following organizations, either through financial support or some type of volunteering?

a. [Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio](#) / [Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley](#)

b. [St. Vincent de Paul Cincinnati](#) / [St. Vincent de Paul Dayton](#)

c. Local soup kitchens / Food rescues or pantries

d. Shelters or other support for the unhoused

e. Habitat for Humanity [Cincinnati](#)/ [Dayton](#)

- f. Local pregnancy center
- g. Other (e.g. [Special Olympics](#))

Global Solidarity

1. Is your parish making efforts to build friendships and solidarity with people, missionaries, organizations (e.g. [Catholic Relief Services](#) (CRS)), programs, or parishes in other parts of the U.S. and/or overseas?
2. Does your parish have any volunteers/parishioners/lay missionaries serving and working with [mission](#) or social service organizations in other states and/or overseas?
3. Does your parish do anything to support and welcome [immigrants and/or refugees](#)?

Respect Life & Human Dignity

1. Does your parish have a Respect Life and/or Social Action committee, or some other group that coordinates efforts to support human life and dignity?
2. Do you have a staff person or volunteer who coordinates your life, human dignity, and charity ministries?
3. Does your parish advocate and educate in areas related to [abortion](#)?
 - a. [Pregnancy care center](#)
 - b. [40 Days for Life](#)
 - c. Life Chain (See in October [Events - Archdiocese of Cincinnati](#))
 - d. [March for Life](#) (local) or [National](#)
 - e. [Cross the Bridge](#)
 - f. Other
4. Do you keep parishioners aware of our Archdiocesan post-abortion healing ministry, [Project Rachel](#), through ways such as bulletin announcements, flyers in the vestibule, and mentions through homilies and prayers of the faithful?
5. Does your respect life/social action committee(s) work on any other life/dignity issues related to Catholic Social Teaching?
 - a. [Proper care for the dying](#)
 - b. [Bereavement](#)

- c. [End to capital punishment](#)
- d. [Human trafficking](#)
- e. [Domestic violence](#)
- f. [Prison ministry](#) / [Returning citizens' support](#)
- g. [Care for Creation](#)
- h. [Immigration reform](#)
- i. [Religious liberty](#)
- j. [Addiction](#)
- k. [Anti-racism](#)
- m. Other

6. Is your parish connected to your local community through nonprofit organizations that seek to empower marginalized people to advocate for their own rights (e.g. [CCHD-funded organizations](#))?

7. Does your parish participate in annual collections?

- a. [CMA](#)
- b. [Respect Life Fund](#)
- c. [CCHD](#)
- d. [CRS](#)
- e. [Mission](#)
- f. [CRS Rice Bowl](#)

Advocacy & Formation

1. Does your parish engage in advocacy around public policy to advance life, dignity, and care for creation?

- a. Letters, phone calls, visits to elected officials

- b. [iVoteCatholic](#)
- c. [Civilize It](#)
- d. [Braver Angels](#)
- e. Other

2. Does your parish promote or offer educational opportunities on gospel justice and [Catholic Social Teaching](#) (e.g. the dignity of life, the rights of workers, solidarity, care for creation)?

3. Are messages of charity, justice, the dignity of life, solidarity, equity, etc. incorporated into your liturgy and prayer?

4. Do parish clergy participate in training or formation opportunities on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching?

5. Do homilies appropriately exhort the faithful to live out Catholic Social teaching in their daily lives?

6. Are formation activities around Catholic Social Teaching accessible and tailored to diverse populations, including those of different ages and languages and persons with disabilities?

Rural Life

1. Have you participated in or experienced [rural/urban dialogue programs](#)?

2. Do you participate in legislative advocacy around farm and food issues?

3. Does your parish work with other local churches (ecumenical) and organizations to meet the needs of the rural community?

Belonging

Multicultural

1. Besides the predominant culture of your parish, with which groups have you ministered?

a. [African American](#)

b. [Hispanic](#)

c. Asian

d. Other ethnic group

e. Deaf

f. Other

2. In what ways has your parish encouraged the inclusion and fuller participation of all God's people in the life and ministry of the Church?

3. What processes have been used in your parish to promote the right knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to be effective ministers for people of more than one language and culture?

4. Has your parish promoted multicultural unity in the local community?

Hispanic

1. Is there a Hispanic population in your parish? In your boundaries?

2. Has the parish developed and implemented plans for Hispanic Ministry?

3. Does your parish have a Hispanic presence at meetings or serving on boards, councils, etc.?

African American

1. Is there an African American population in your parish? In your boundaries?

2. Has the parish developed and implemented plans for African American Ministry?

3. Does your parish have an African American presence at meetings or serving on boards, councils, etc.?

Disabilities

1. Has your parish made intentional and well-communicated efforts to create a culture of inclusion and meaningful participation for [persons with disabilities](#) and their families?

2. In what ways is our parish accessible to persons with disabilities?

a. Braille signs

b. Accessible/wheelchair ramps

c. ASL interpreters

d. LOOP or FM system for hard-of-hearing

e. Sensory-Friendly Mass options

f. Mental health ministry

g. Adaptive religious education

h. Other

3. Are there any persons with disabilities in your parish(es) who serve in ministerial roles?