

# Diocesan Pastoral Council Update:

Meeting of 4 November 2017

M. R. Zick  
5 December 2017

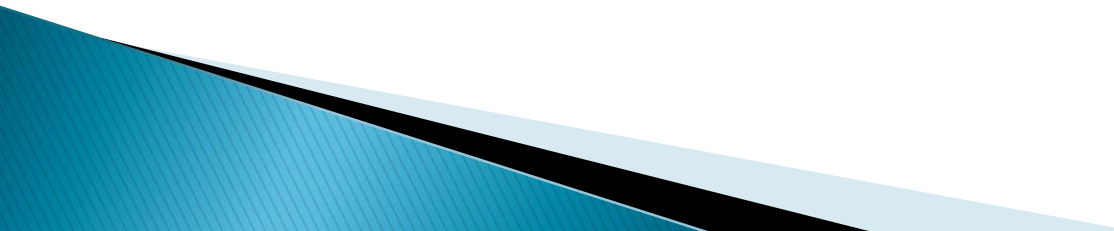
# What is the Diocesan Pastoral Council?

- ▶ The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) is an organization consisting of laity, religious, deacons and priests. Just as a parish council assists a pastor by providing advice and effort in support of the parish, DPC assists Bishop Cunningham in his pastoral care for the entire diocese.
- ▶ **Where does the concept of a Diocesan Pastoral Council come from?**  
Vatican II urged establishment diocesan pastoral councils "to investigate under the authority of the Bishop all those things pertaining to pastoral works, to ponder them, and to propose practical conclusions about them."
- ▶ **How is the Diocesan Pastoral Council organized?**  
Each parish in the diocese is represented on the DPC. There are other representatives from the diocesan offices, the Presbyteral Council, or any other special ministries – depending on the issues being investigated and pondered by DPC at a particular time.
- ▶ **What happens at plenary session of DPC?**  
The parish representatives are invited to participate in DPC plenary session under the leadership of Bishop Cunningham. These meetings are planned by the DPC Executive Committee in conjunction with the Bishop. Plenary meetings are held four times a year. Plenary sessions allow the Bishop to share information and consult directly with representation of the entire Diocesan community.

For additional information see:

<http://syracusediocese.org/diocesan-offices/diocesan-pastoral-council/>

# DPC Meeting, 4 November – Agenda

- ▶ Opening Prayer and Introductions
  - ▶ Catholic Sun Survey – Katherine Long
  - ▶ Diocesan Strategic Plan Update– Danielle Cummings, John Barsanti,
  - ▶ Parishes Without a Resident Pastor– Barbara Kane
  - ▶ Unlocking the Mystery – Barbara Kane
  - ▶ Possible Changes in McDevitt Grant Process – Tim Mahar
  - ▶ Bishop Cunningham – Remarks and Q&A
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# Catholic Sun Survey

- ▶ Survey distributed at meeting requesting input
  - goal: collect input for Sun's strategic plan
    - Limited input received at meeting
    - Survey redistributed via e-mail to DPC members
- ▶ Survey also made available:
  - 30 November edition of the Catholic Sun
  - Link on Catholic Sun home page:

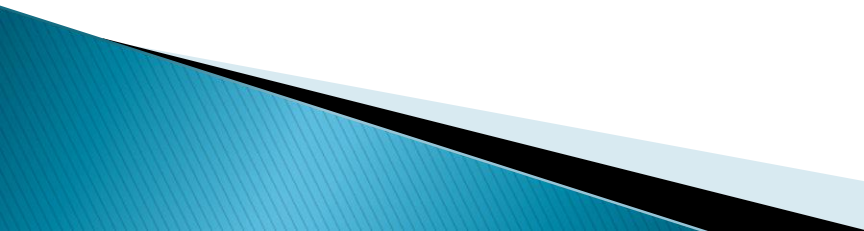
<http://thecatholicsun.com/>

# Diocesan Strategic Plan Update

- ▶ Year 3 implementation plan update
- ▶ Diocese needs to reflect Church changes
- ▶ Some background data:

	2000	2015	Change
Mass Attendance	103,000	75,000	-27.2%
Baptisms	5689	2612	-37.1%
Confirmations	3946	2647	-32.9%
Marriages	2083	769	-46.1%

# Diocesan Strategic Plan Update

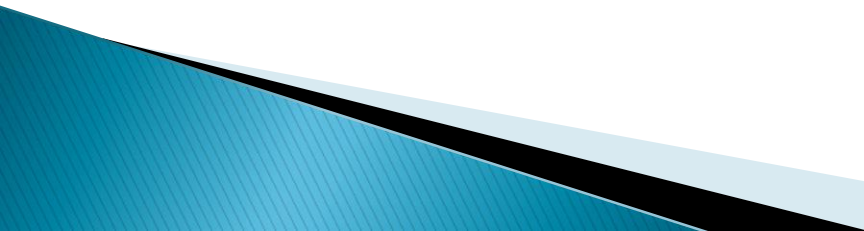
- ▶ Strategic committee: 12 pastors across diocese charged to:
    - Invest in programs supporting PCA and parish evangelization
    - Stop funding non-value-added programs
    - Refocus and restructure needed programs not properly executed
    - Encourage and support change
  - ▶ Plan core: mission: **EVANGELIZATION**
    - To be shared: consensus on evangelization process
  - ▶ Step 1: move from \$ driven to mission driven
    - Move ministries & offices to evangelization process
    - Budget accordingly
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# Diocesan Strategic Plan Operational Update

- ▶ Financial decisions based on Evangelization impact
- ▶ Action Areas
  - Create Parish and PCA strategic plans
  - Revenue generating programs
  - Streamline parish administration
- ▶ Opportunity : 65% of Diocese Catholics NOT active
- ▶ Elephants in the room:
  - Schools and HOPE Appeal assessments
  - New lay pension plan
  - Under-utilized facilities
  - PCA plan to identify core properties

Detailed discussions in DPC minutes, Strategic Presentations and 16 November Catholic Sun

# Parishes Without a Resident Pastor

- ▶ PCA of 4 parishes in eastern Broome county
    - St. Mary, Kirkwood – 420 parishioners
    - St. Joseph, Sanitaria Springs– 110 parishioners
    - Our Lady of Lourdes, Windsor – 130 parishioners
    - St. Joseph, Deposit– 110 parishioners
  - ▶ Each parish maintains its own organist, parish council and finance council
  - ▶ PCA council meets every other month
  - ▶ Bottom line: they are making it work
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# Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

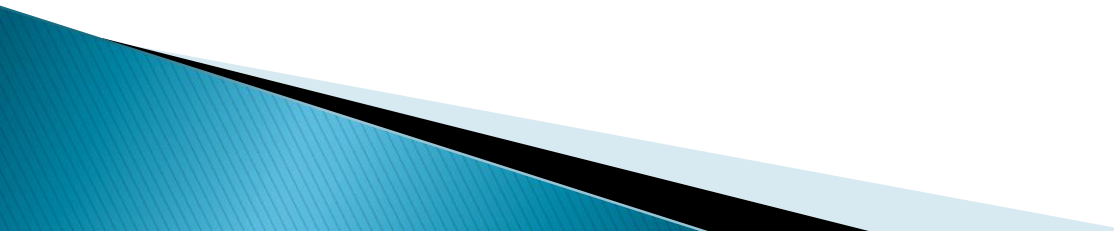
- ▶ “I learned the Story”
- ▶ 8 week evangelization program
- ▶ 91 participants at Eastern Broome PCA parishes
- ▶ Presented at each Parish

**Aside:** Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible program was presented at St. Anthony’s and as a result, a follow on 24 week program, the Bible Timeline is available here at Church of the the Holy Family.

# Possible Changes in McDevitt Grant Process

- ▶ Proposed change areas to be discussed at December's Pastor's Advisory Committee meeting:
  - Priority will be given to requests for proven successful evangelization efforts
  - Parishes receiving grants will be asked to work with appropriate diocesan office
  - Attendance required regional workshop prior to submitting an application
  - Applications distributed only at regional workshop
  - Priority will be given to requests from PCAs or groups of neighboring parishes working together
  - Requests for furniture, construction or remodeling no longer considered

# Bishop Cunningham – Remarks and Q&A

- ▶ Why has there been such a decline in attendance and participation in the sacraments?
  - ▶ How many of the 65% inactive Catholics go to alternative churches?
  - ▶ What is the Catholic percentage of Catholic school attendance?
  - ▶ Can additional factors – snow, hurricanes, declining numbers, be considered in setting the HOPE Appeal assessments?
  - ▶ Have you shared with Priests the direction to get more lay people involved?
  - ▶ What help is available to PCAs to breakdown parish barriers?
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# Upcoming DPC Meetings

▶ ~~September 9~~

▶ ~~November 4~~

▶ March 3

▶ May 5

# Backup Slides

# Diocesan Strategic Plan Update

- ▶ Also adopted USCCB strategic plan priorities:
  - Evangelization
  - Marriage and Family Life
  - Human life and Dignity
  - Vocations
  - Religious Freedom
  - Further details at: <http://www.usccb.org/about/strategic-plan.cfm>



# Revenue Generating Programs

1. Evangelization programs
  - Get more people in the pew
  - Pilot programs
  - Utilize the newly restored Cathedral
2. Renew increase offering programs
3. Capital Campaigns
4. Obtain McDevitt & Heritage Grants
5. Sell excess non-core property
6. Streamline Administration operations

Source: Operations and Finance portion of Strategic Plan update, 4 November DPC Meeting

# Suggested DPC Agenda Items

- ▶ Judged as not relevant to PPC meeting