



Components of the Visioning Process

The process to articulate a shared pastoral vision for the Church in northeast Kansas has several components.

Archbishop's Envisioning Team: It is this team of eleven individuals from various backgrounds that not only provides advice to the Archbishop, but also participates in some of the other meetings and assists in compiling the input that was received from the Focus Groups, Clergy Groups and Listening Sessions. Together with the Archbishop, this team helps to construct a ten-year, mutually shared vision consisting of pastoral priorities, along with goals to achieve those priorities.

Focus Groups: The members of the Focus Groups consist of those who are involved in various ministries, movements or communities within the Church. The members of the Focus Groups offer important input because of their closeness to ministry in the Church. In many ways the Focus Group members represent those on the "front lines" of pastoral ministry. The one hundred, or so, members of the Focus Groups will be asked to attend one of three Focus Group meetings. Two of the meetings will be in English and one in Spanish. The Focus Groups also include advisory bodies like the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and the Archdiocesan Finance Council. These bodies will provide input to the process at their normally scheduled meetings.

Clergy Group: The priests of the Archdiocese are invited to a special meeting of the clergy in order to share with the Archbishop what they see as challenges facing the Church and to offer suggestions concerning how pastoral concerns should be prioritized. The Archbishop consulted the Presbyteral Council (council of priest advisors) before beginning the Visioning Process, but this meeting of the Clergy Group is an opportunity for any priest to offer his ideas.

Listening Sessions with the Faithful: Last, but certainly not least, are the large- group Listening Sessions that invite the comments and suggestions of the lay Faithful at large. There will be two large-group sessions, one in Overland Park and one in Topeka. The Faithful who were not part of one of the other groups are encouraged to attend and participate in the guided conversation about the Church's pastoral needs and priorities.

Parish Pastoral Council Input: The Pastoral Council at each of the parishes in the Archdiocese will be asked to provide the same input as was asked of the Focus Groups.

Promulgation of the Shared Vision: The Shared Vision will be promulgated by the Archbishop on Pentecost Sunday 2015 (May 24).