



THE ARCHDIOCESE
OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS



ARCHBISHOP'S KEY INITIATIVES

OUR SACRED PURPOSE:

Under our Heavenly Father's providential care, guided by the Holy Spirit, and in humble response to the call of Jesus to go and make missionary disciples, we the Catholic Church of Northeast Kansas are committed to embody the life and mission of Jesus through Word, Sacrament, and Service so that all God's people in the Archdiocese may hear and encounter the living Christ and the Joy of the Gospel.

OUR TEN-YEAR STATEMENT OF VISION:

*The Catholic Church in Northeast Kansas:
Growing as disciples of Jesus, making disciples for Jesus.*

OUR FIVE OVERALL PASTORAL PRIORITIES:

CONVERSION – EVANGELIZATION – ALL FORMS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION –
OUTREACH TO THOSE IN NEED – STEWARDSHIP

OUR THREE KEY INITIATIVES:

What we will address and develop through 2025

INITIATIVE #1:

BUILD A CULTURE OF EVANGELIZATION ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE

Goals:

- Archdiocesan parishes/apostolates will equip and encourage missionary discipleship in homes and communities by strengthening individual relationships with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church through the Enflame practices of sharing, caring and praying. Pastors will continue to share the work of their parish communities in encouraging missionary discipleship through completing the Annual Pastoral Survey in October 2022.
- In promoting a culture of Eucharistic Amazement, emphasis will be given toward the recognition of Jesus as Truly Present in the Blessed Sacrament through the truth of our teaching, the beauty of Mass and the goodness of personal accompaniment. Pastors will discern strengthening the culture of Eucharistic Amazement within their parish communities, considering 1) how best to highlight the Feast of Corpus Christi 2023 and 2) what 2-3 specific opportunities for further enrichment/formation of individual relationship with Christ in the Eucharist might best serve their community through November 2023.
- Foster the living of a simple way of life that includes friendship, good conversation and the Rosary by expanding the School of Faith's Movement of the Holy Family to 11,000 subscribers and 1,000 members by October 31, 2020.

INITIATIVE #2:

STRENGTHEN THE VOCATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

Goals:

- In order to positively affect relationship culture in their communities and increase religious participation, parishes are strongly encouraged to infuse their ministries with relationship courses. By February 2023, 10-20 parishes will prioritize marriage and relationship health by establishing at least one new skills-based outreach, such as the Communio outreach.
- Catholic schools and religious education programs are most effective when children are supported by strong family relationships. To help foster this learning environment, by June 2023, 20-30 schools or religious education programs will promote healthy marriage and family relationships by providing resources or promoting parish-based relationship outreaches.

INITIATIVE #3:

CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS BY ENGAGING IN THE CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

Goals:

In order that parishioners may grow as disciples of Jesus by concrete expressions of His way of mercy...

- By Advent of 2022, all parishes (or parish clusters) are encouraged to identify 2-5 volunteers as a “Parish Mercy Team” who meet regularly to work in collaboration with Catholic Charities, Social Justice, Respect Life, and Special Needs ministries and who implement one or more parish-wide Archdiocesan sponsored Mercy Project per year.
- By Sept 1, 2022, all parishes (or parish clusters) will be empowered to identify a Parish Pro-Life Coordinator and assemble a supporting committee who will foster the “**Walking With Moms**” initiative within the parish and, as needed, mobilize the parish to support a woman/family through connection with Catholic Charities and other community support resources, in order to highlight the beautiful gift of pregnancy, and better support women and families challenged by an unplanned pregnancy or challenging life circumstances, and to help Kansas become a destination state for life,
- Because the Gospel is to be proclaimed to all, by June of 2023, every Catholic Institution and Parish of the Archdiocese will utilize the “Archdiocesan Best Practices Checklist for Special Needs” to assess and identify ways to improve their services to and accessibility for persons with disabilities and their families, as well as persons who are deaf or have hearing loss, in order to budget for one improvement annually.

OUR FIVE OVERALL PASTORAL PRIORITIES

CONVERSION – EVANGELIZATION – ALL FORMS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION – OUTREACH TO THOSE IN NEED – STEWARDSHIP

1. **CONVERSION** – One of the essential missions of the Church is to bring individuals into contact with Jesus Christ, allowing them to be transformed by the experience of His Love. The Church accomplishes this in numerous ways but most especially through the sacramental life of the Church. Therefore, the care and the fervor with which the Eucharist is celebrated is critical. Also, the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession is a remarkable tool for Catholics in continuing their ongoing conversion. The Church should do all it can to strengthen and renew love for the Eucharist as well as to renew the practice of Sacramental Confession. Offering retreat programs is also an excellent way in which the Church can facilitate conversion within the Archdiocese.
2. **EVANGELIZATION** – The mission that Jesus gave the Church was to go and make disciples. It is easy for us as a Church to become internally focused. However, to really accomplish the mission that Jesus has given to the Church, we must always to invite others to know Christ and the Gospel. In parishes, this would particularly involve strong RCIA programs as well as a variety of initiatives to reach out to the unchurched within the community. It is equally important for parishes to seek out lapsed Catholics. In addition, making sure our parish communities are inviting and welcoming to strangers is also part of evangelization.
3. **ALL FORMS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION** – Supporting and promoting Catholic schools has been a very important endeavor and a huge priority within the Archdiocese. Catholic schools provide environments where students not only have the opportunity for formal religious instruction but receive all of their education in an environment that integrates faith into all other disciplines. One of the great challenges the Church faces today is keeping Catholic education affordable and accessible to everyone. Another major challenge in this area is the proper formation of Catholic school teachers. Included in this mission of passing on the Faith to our youth are our schools of religion as well as initiatives to catechize whole families together. Cultivating within adult Catholics a desire to continue to grow in knowledge of their Catholic faith is a major goal of adult education and formation.
4. **OUTREACH TO THOSE IN NEED** – Making the love of Christ visible and tangible to those who are poor, vulnerable and on the margins of society is an essential part of the mission of the Church. Included in this goal is the Church's efforts to protect the unborn and to help mothers' experiencing a crisis pregnancy. Outreach to the poor within our communities and assisting with both physical and spiritual needs for their well-being, is a means to share with them the gift of our Catholic faith. A critical issue is how we, as a Church, welcome immigrants within the Archdiocese. Our outreach offers an essential opportunity for the Church to bring the love of Christ to those who may feel like they are aliens within our community.
5. **STEWARDSHIP** – Stewardship is a way of looking at life and should not be thought of as merely an effort to increase the level of monetary collections. Stewardship fosters within us a profound gratitude resulting from our seeing everything as God's gift to us. It is out of this profound gratitude that we inevitably are motivated to want to return some of what God has given us to Him. Stewardship also involves the proper management with the resources that are entrusted to the Church. It is an important responsibility at every level of the Church that we do our best to maximize the resources entrusted to us which have been given at great sacrifice by our people.