

A Vibrant Church+

Living the mission of Jesus Christ in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

1. Worship and Spirituality¹

- The Mass and Sacraments are central to the life of the church. They are well prepared, celebrated prayerfully, inspire toward mission and evangelization.
- Devotional opportunities, especially the Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharistic Adoration; including prayer groups, the Rosary, and other devotional practices are offered throughout the Liturgical Year.
- Quality preaching leads to transformation in Christ and applies the Gospel to daily life.
- Engaging and nourishing spiritual renewal, e.g. R.C.I.A., *Christ Renews His Parish* (CRHP), *Why Be Catholic*, *Small Faith Communities*.^a

2. Catechesis and Education²

- Catechesis in Knowledge of the Faith, Liturgy, Moral Formation, Prayer, Community Life and Mission are offered for adults, youth, and children.^b Families are living their call to be “domestic churches.”
- Sacramental preparation is essential. The RCIA is normative for sacramental formation.
- There are ongoing efforts to foster all vocations, especially for ordained ministry.^c
- A Catholic school maintains quality education and good stewardship of resources^{++ d}

3. Pastoral Ministry^{3 e}

- Youth, young adult, adult and family ministries are vital to the community.
- There is ongoing care for the sick, homebound, the needy, and life concerns, e.g. family challenges, unemployment; in partnership with local community resources.
- Counseling and support of key groups: grieving families, the divorced, the elderly, are offered.
- Cultural diversity is perceived as a gift and asset in worship and community life.

4. Evangelization and Outreach^{4 f}

- Evangelization efforts are ongoing to reach the unchurched, inactive Catholics; and to revitalize the commitment of practicing Catholics to deeper discipleship in Christ and living the Gospel.
- Hospitality and a welcoming spirit are actively expressed in the life of the community.
- Ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and activities are cultivated.^g
- Outreach is grounded in Catholic social teaching, including respect for life from conception to natural death. Members are engaged in action toward peace and justice, particularly in the local neighborhood and global missions.^h

5. Mission-Centered Leadership and Administration⁵

- A well-defined mission guides the community. There are many opportunities to get involved. Clergy and laity work together.
- Effective consultative structures are used so that members are engaged in establishing pastoral priorities and policies.
- Formation, training and supervision for paid and volunteer leadership and staff is normative.ⁱ

6. Mission-Centered Fiscal Solvency

- Mission and ministries guide budget. Financial obligations and diocesan requirements are met.
- Just and fair salaries are paid to all employees.
- Accountability and transparency are normative in financial and organizational management.
- Stewardship, tithing are promoted. Buildings and property are appropriately maintained.

1 [Cf. *Ecclesia De Eucharistia* by Pope John Paul II and *Sacramentum Caritatis* by Pope Benedict XVI]

1^a See Congregation for Clergy, *Priest: Pastor and Leader of the Parish Community (PPLPC)*, 28; Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis (SC)* 34-42, 45-46; Congregation for Clergy, *Directory on the Life and Ministry of Priests (DLMP)*, 45-47; John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici (CFL)*, 16-17; 26-30.

2 [Cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi* by Pope Paul VI and *Ecclesiam Suam* by Pope Paul VI]

2^b See *Christifideles laici (CFL)*, 60.

2^c See John Paul II, *Pastores dabo vobis (PDV)*, ch. 4, 43-41; SC, 23-26.

2^d See *General Director for Catechesis*, John Paul II, *Catechesis tradendae*

3 [Cf. *Ecclesiae de Mysterio*, Practical Provisions, article 9]

3^e See *CFL*, 27, on works of the apostolate, and 53, on care for the sick, homebound and needy. See also *PPLPC*, 22, 24, on the duties of the priest and *PDV*, 59, on the role of the lay faithful.

4 [Cf. *Pacem in Terris* by Pope John XXIII]

4^f Add Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*; John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*; John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*. See also *CFL*, 34-44 and *PPLPC* 29.

4^g John Paul II, *Ut Unum Sint*; Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, *Ecumenical Directory for Norms on ecumenism*.

4^h *CFL*, 27.

5 [Cf. *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*, a Statement of the USCCB]

5ⁱ In addition to the documents mentioned, you should have a link to the document of the Congregation for the Clergy, *Priest: Pastor and Leader of the Parish Community*. See also *PDV*, 59; *CFL*, 23; and esp. *CFL* 31-Pastors in service of communion.

+These ideas reflect an approach based on the “Ministerially Complete Fact Sheet” used in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in the mid-80’s, the *Parish Project: The Vibrant Parish* sponsored in 1983 by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and the National Pastoral Life Center (NPLC), as well as being in sync with the results of “The Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project” funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., and published in *The Changing Face of Church: Emerging Models of Parish Leadership*, by Marti R. Jewell and David A. Ramey, 2010.

++When applicable

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