

Stewards for Tomorrow - Pastoral Planning

In the months of May and June, priests will be meeting in deanery gatherings to review sacramental, liturgical, pastoral and demographic data in an effort to provide initial restructuring proposals for parishes and schools in their deaneries. Once these first-draft proposals are documented, pastors will share them with six to seven lay and religious leaders in their parish to gain their perspectives/feedback on the proposals. (July and August) This process of consultation is integral as we strive to be *“Stewards For Tomorrow.”* If you are asked to be part of this process, please share your time and talent with your local priests and deanery representatives, even if it may not be convenient! Please pray daily for the success of this effort. (One way would be to use the prayer printed below) After these rounds of consultation, the recommendations will be synthesized with other models and possibilities provided by *PartnersEdge LLC*, a national consulting firm that provides this type of service to dioceses throughout the United States. In September, a further model for parishes and schools will again be brought before deaneries for evaluation. At that time the Office of Pastoral Planning will summarize the results from all 17 deaneries and share the proposals with Archbishop Blair and others for further analysis and refinement. It is our hope that by early 2017 we together will have achieved a model for our Archdiocese that will begin to realize our Archdiocesan vision of a *“local church characterized by spiritual vitality, organizational efficacy and accountability and social and financial responsibility- all for the sake of fulfilling our mission.”* What is our mission? *“In union with the whole Church, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Hartford have a mission by Baptism to be living signs of communion with God, and to be his instruments for the redemption of the world. Nourished by God’s Word and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, we are called to live a holy life, and to bring others into our shared communion with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”* For more information, please visit the Archdiocesan website (www.ArchdioceseofHartford.org) and click on the link for the Office of Pastoral Planning.

Pastoral Planning Prayer - Stewards for Tomorrow

Almighty God and Father, we the members of the Archdiocese of Hartford thank you for the gift of our Catholic Faith. As we look to the future during this time of pastoral planning, we ask you to bless us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to discern wisely a way forward to meet today’s challenges and opportunities. May the **virtue of prudence** guide our efforts to be good stewards of the legacy we have inherited from those whose vision in the past helped establish our beloved Archdiocese and its parishes, schools and institutions. May the **virtue of justice** ensure that the voices of the faithful of every generation, ethnicity, state in life, and community in the Archdiocese be heard, welcomed and respected.

May the **virtue of fortitude** confirm us in our resolve to acknowledge and address the spiritual and practical realities of our day, and to position ourselves for a more vibrant future.

May the **virtue of temperance** help us to look beyond our individual interests and concerns for the sake of the common good of the whole Church in our archdiocese and its mission to draw all people to Christ. At the intercession of Blessed Mary, our Mother, and Saint Joseph her spouse and our patron, may we discern and implement what is truly best for the whole Church and for all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

We make our prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.