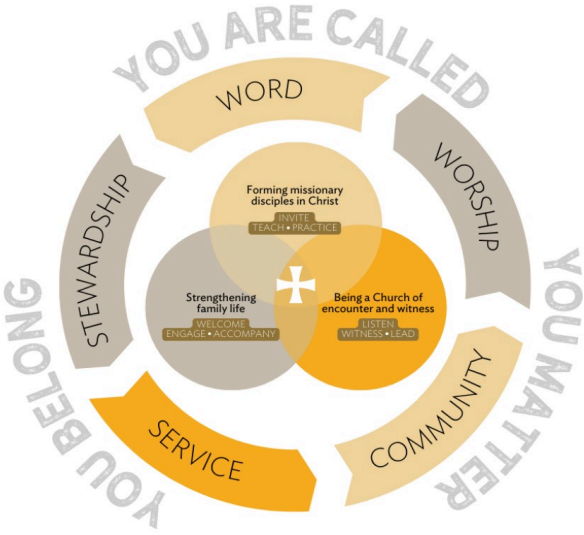
Parish Renewal Gathering



Pope Francis highlights three essentials for the synodal journey: Encounter, Listening, and Discernment. We hope that this resource will aid you in planning and implementing authentic experiences of encounter, listening, and sharing for the members of your parish.

Timeline

- Recommend to take place in the month of April and be completed by April 30.
- You may consider a weekend gathering or incorporating a potluck lunch or dinner as part of the parish-wide celebration.

1. Roles and Responsibilities

- **CHAIR**: Assist the pastor in planning, organizing, and promoting participation among parishioners; ensure the effectiveness and implementation of plans; and oversee outreach efforts to ensure broad participation.
- **TECHNICAL LEADER**: Responsible for all technical requirements of the gathering
- **COMMUNICATION**: Coordinate a plan to inform, invite and encourage participation; intentional effort to outreach and engage those who are isolated and on the peripheries.
- **PRAYER & SCRIPTURE LEADER**: Coordinate and/or lead scriptural reflection

2. Parish Renewal Gathering Format* (approximately 80 minutes)

A. Welcome | 3 minutes
B. Lectio divina & Intercession | 7 minutes
C. Renewal Video | 5 minutes
D. Presentation on Diocesan Pastoral Renewal | 10 minutes
E. Small Groups Conversation | 40 minutes (including break)
F. Parish Pastoral Renewal Planning Process | 10 minutes
G. Closing Remarks & Renewal Prayer | 5 minutes

* PowerPoint Sample for the Parish Renewal Gathering can be downloaded. Click here

A. Welcome & Renewal Prayer | 3 Minutes

B. Lectio Divina | 7 Minutes

The scripture/prayer leader may give the following instructions:

We are going to enter into a time of listening to God's Word and prayer. We will be using a process called Lectio Divina. We begin by listening to God's Word and being attentive to what action, word, or phrase in the reading resonates with us. This is what the Holy Spirit is prompting you to pay attention to. The reading will be followed by a time of silence when you can contemplate what has resonated with you and ask the Lord to show you why He wants you to be paying attention to this. What is going on within your heart or life right now that this is speaking to.

The reading will be proclaimed a second time for you to listen again followed by another period of silence. At the end of this silence, if you so choose, you are invited to share with someone sitting next to you or with others at your table, the word, action or phrase that is resonating with you.

We will then enter into a brief time of prayer.

The focus of the Renewal is our journeying together as a community of disciples, the Church. The reading that will be proclaimed ***The Road to Emmaus****, is one that we have heard many times before about two of Jesus' disciples who are also journeying. Yet, they are so immersed in hashing over all the events of the past few days that they do not even recognize that Jesus is the one who is joining them on their journey.*

You are invited to listen with the ears of your heart for what transpired on that journey, the impact it had on those disciples, what it means to you now in your personal and parish renewal.

Lord, we ask that the Holy Spirit open the eyes and ears of hearts as we listen to your Word.

- Luke 24: 13 -34 is proclaimed first time, followed by a time of silence.
- The reading is proclaimed a second time, followed by a time of silence.
- Depending on the size of the gathering, invite participants to share with the whole group, or in their small groups, what has resonated with them from their listening and contemplation.

The Prayer Leader may continue in these or similar petitions:

> *With trusting hearts, we now offer our prayer petitions. The response is "Lord, hear our prayer."*
>
> *That we may seek to know the Lord more deeply through the Scriptures. Let us pray to the Lord.* R.
>
> *That we be given the grace to recognize Jesus in the breaking of the Bread. Let us pray to the Lord.* R.
>
> *That our eyes may be opened to see that Jesus is present in our midst and he journeys with us even when we do not recognize him. Let us pray to the Lord.* R.
>
> *For all the intentions we hold in our hearts…. Let us pray to the Lord.* R.
>
> *Let us gather all of our prayers into the prayer that Jesus taught us.*
>
> OUR FATHER….
>
> *May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us everlasting life. Amen.*

C. Pastoral Renewal Video | 5 Minutes

- See "Diocesan Renewal Video"

D. Presentation on Diocesan Pastoral Renewal | 10 Minutes

- "Parish Gathering - PowerPoint Sample" slides 8 to 18 with notes

E. Small Group Conversations | 40 Minutes

- Template (click here)

F. Parish Pastoral Renewal Timeline | 10 Minutes

- May to June 2024: Gathering Parish Information
- June 2024: Diocesan-wide Questionnaires
- Any upcoming parish renewal initiatives



G. Summary & Adjourn | 5 Minutes