

Vision Report Diocese of Davenport

Our vision statement. The Catholic Diocese of Davenport will reflect the Reign of God by growing in faith, hope and charity.

Our mission statement. As a Eucharistic community, we live out Jesus' call to go and make disciples of all nations and to love God and neighbor.

Our strategic challenges. The following questions (not in priority order) reflect strategic issues or challenges facing the Diocese of Davenport as we move forward:

1. How can we maintain the viability of parish life and make the Eucharistic Liturgy available to all areas of the Diocese as we strive to increase vocations to the priesthood?
2. How can we nurture and maintain a sense of prayer, proclaim and practice the Gospel, promote justice and live out our Catholic faith when the Gospel often conflicts with the norms, values and culture of the society in which we live?
3. How can we become increasingly accountable to each other as we re-establish trust in the Church?
4. How can we restore our financial viability?
5. How can we learn, teach and model the best practices of diocesan ministry and parish life?
6. How can we develop leadership and delegate more responsibility to lay people and deacons in a collaborative manner while honoring the nature of the Church and specific policies regarding appropriate roles and responsibilities?
7. How can we better utilize technology to support all areas of ministry?
8. How can we help people re-discover the value and meaning of being Catholic?
9. How can we better recognize and appreciate the social, cultural and religious diversity of our world as we become an increasingly multi-cultural church and society?
10. How can we become more accountable to administrative requirements without adding undue burdens to people who are already over-extended?
11. How can we pay just wages and benefits to staff while also balancing church budgets in a declining economy, especially in those parishes supporting Catholic schools?

Our strategic priorities. These five priorities emerged out of extensive discussions about new directions and initiatives for the diocese:

1. *Celebrating Liturgy Well.* Because liturgy, especially the Sunday Eucharist, forms us as the Body of Christ and is the source and summit of everything we do, we commit ourselves to authentic worship by observing the norms of the Church and by nurturing the full, conscious and active participation of all the faithful.
2. *Restoring Trust.* We will act with the utmost integrity in all that we do throughout the Diocese of Davenport.
3. *Modeling Best Practices.* We will model the best that experience and research have to offer in all areas of ministry as we promote parish and diocesan life, develop leadership and meet the specific pastoral needs of all of the faithful in the Diocese.
4. *Strengthening Parish Life.* We will encourage collaboration among all entities of the Diocese as we re-visit and update the current configuration of parishes and deaneries in the Diocese of Davenport.
5. *Enhancing Communication.* We will promote effective communication within and between diocesan entities through education and the efficient use of technology.

Six areas of ministry permeate all that we do. They are *Liturgy, Faith Formation, Family Life, Finance and Administration, Social Action* and *Church Life*. We recognize that evangelization, stewardship and vocations are integral elements of *church life*. As we live out our mission, address our strategic challenges and act upon these strategic priorities, we will emphasize all six areas of ministry in parish and diocesan life.

Specific actions. As we move forward as the Diocese of Davenport, these are some of the specific initiatives that we will undertake:

1. Create a long-range, pro-active strategic plan for revitalizing and re-structuring the parishes and deaneries of the Diocese.
2. Based upon that plan, encourage each parish to plan for the next ten years.
3. Align new parish and deanery structure to meet the needs and interests of parishes by promoting collaboration between parishes across the Diocese.
4. Actively promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life and lay ecclesial ministry to provide for the spiritual needs of our diocese.
5. Encourage parish planning by providing ongoing training for parish councils, lay directors, finance councils, boards of education, etc.
6. Continue leadership training for clergy and lay leaders across the diocese.
7. Promote deeper understanding, appreciation and collaboration between various cultures and faith traditions.
8. Establish a diocesan pool of subject matter experts, utilizing clergy and lay expertise, and develop a resource directory of subject matter experts (SMEs) in various areas of parish and diocesan ministry.
9. Communicate more clearly what support and direction diocesan offices are able to provide for parishes.
10. Break down parochialism as we search for collaborative ways to gain efficiencies between parishes and other entities of the diocese, including those of personnel, policies, programs and liturgies.
11. Practice appropriate levels of accountability and openness in the conduct and reporting of meetings and of finance in all entities throughout the Diocese.
12. Develop parish models that embody research-based best practices.