

STARTING POINT



We have a parish plan or have been working on one — we can revisit, review, develop it in light of the SMPGoals

SCENARIO

STARTING POINT:

We have a parish plan or have been working on one – we can revisit, review, develop it in light of the SMPGoals.

In response to the Holy Spirit, **we let the SMPGoals shape** our current parish plan, discerning how our current plan incorporates SMPGoals and in what order.

This Scenario may also apply to parishes who have participated in a **Bishop's Parish Visitation Program** where recommendations for planning and action have come to the parish from the Bishop's Response.

**SUGGESTED STEPS**

1. **Initial Spiritual Conversation** about the SMPGoals and our current parish plan/ planning (see p.4).

QUESTION: What SMPGoals do we incorporate into our parish planning at this point?

2. **Identify the standout SMPGoal/s** to take into our planning first.
3. **Check the planning process** being used — if needed, adjust in light of the 5P process (see Scenario 3 pp.3-7)
4. **Commence the planning process for 1st selected Goal** and continue for other selected Goals, as applicable.
5. **Invite the key parish groups and general parishioners** to reflect on and contribute to the (revised) draft parish plan.
6. **Update, finalise, decide, communicate, release, explain, promote** the revised Mission and Pastoral Plan.



✓ **Achievement:** The parish has its revised Mission and Pastoral Plan



Looking ahead: We are ready for the next step → implementing our Plan. **See the Implementation and Review Leaflet**

RESOURCES for Scenario 4

SCENARIO

4

Assumes the group understands the SMPGoals well. During the planning process we may see the need to explore a Goal more fully to better understand what it means. **See Scenario 1 for details.**

Make an honest assessment about how our plan/planning process is going. It may be that our current planning is going well or has stalled. It may be that implementation is going well, or is patchy, or has stalled.

The SMPGoals and our Planning Process – the SMPGoals are both new opportunity and new responsibility. This may be a good opportunity for us to review our planning progress and the planning process used by the parish to date – the 5P approach may offer new possibilities.

We can use the process in **Scenario 2** to make this decision about which Goal/s.

Begin planning for one Goal – go through the 5P process or our own planning process for this Goal.

Repeat for the next Goal ... See **Scenario 3** Resources pp. 3-7

Invite the broader parish into the process to provide input, comment and develop a sense of ownership. Provide different options for people to engage: face-to-face Conversation in the Spirit is ideal, but not everyone will come. Provide a written option in hard copy at Mass and/or on online.

Follow the Synodal Decision-Making steps to finalise the Plan so that the Pastor can take the decision about it.

*See Synodal Decision-Making, p.13 in the **Overview Leaflet***

Conversation in the Spirit about the SMPGoals and our current parish plan/planning –

Steps 1, 2 & 3 on p.46

Scripture: Acts of the Apostles Ch. 15 tells the story of much debate amongst the apostles and church elders in Jerusalem, meeting in Council about whether or not the Jewish Law (of Moses) applied to Gentile converts. Some Christians, who were Pharisees, said definitely ‘yes’. Others disagreed just as strongly: Peter spoke, Paul and Barnabas spoke, and James ‘brother of the Lord’, spoke. *‘The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles’*(Acts 15:12). The decision reached was: no, the Gentiles were not required to keep the Mosaic Law because they were saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ just as they themselves were (Acts 15:11). A letter was sent by the Council to Gentile Christians. It said: *‘For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden ...’*(Acts 15:28).

Note in this passage the dynamic interplay between speaking, listening, the Holy Spirit and discerning/ making a decision. These are ingredients for a Conversation in the Spirit.

Scenario 4 Questions: Choose one or more to focus on in the Conversation.

What is the ‘state of health’ of our current planning process and/or the implementation of our parish plan?

Which SMPGoals should we focus on at this time?

Are there SMPGoals we need to better understand?

Commence with a period of silence for pondering on both how the early Church grappled with complex questions and the selected Scenario 4 Questions.

First Round of Conversation: Moving clockwise around the group, each person has a chance to speak (up to 2 min.) after which there is a time of silence for reflection before the next person speaks. There is no discussion in this Round.

Second Round of Conversation: We each share what struck us most from the First Round and/or what moved in us during the times of silence. A pause for reflection follows after each person speaks. There is no discussion in this Round.

Third Round of Conversation: Finally, as moved to speak, we each share what has emerged as significant for us from the preceding two rounds. What new insights have arisen, what common themes and fruits were evident. We can speak in any order and respond to one another.

Do we have an answer to Steps 1, 2 & 3 on p. 2 or do we need to engage in more Conversation in the Spirit?









CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST