

Dreams and Visions

The Planning Procedure

1. Before you get started

Get the vision and sense of “lifelong faith formation”
how this will change the practices of your parish
be sure the staff shares this vision
understand this may mean structural changes,
including personnel
be ready to go out on a limb

Read the resources, share what you are reading, pray
Build a strong foundation of understanding!

2. When you're ready:

First, make a firm decision to do this,
commit yourself to the vision and process
know what this commit **is**:
to invite all members of the community into faith formation
which means providing a means they will receive well
slowly launch a series of initiatives aimed at this goal
more making a “slight shift” than a “major change”
know what it **is not**:
NOT starting a new “program”
NOT shutting down your children’s program
know what this **may mean for you**:
certain other things may be set aside
if this isn’t a priority, it won’t happen
be ready: your liturgy and pastoral care will improve and
be more work – within a couple of months

3. Then, identify and name someone to be a Coordinator

someone to head this up
most likely not the DRE or Pastor
but someone who can work closely with both
and at the same time be in touch with the community

- entrepreneur
- understands this fully and can communicate it to others
- is in Christ
- can invent without running off alone in his or her own direction
 - works well with others
- catechumenate background

- selfless leader type
- teacher & communicator
- helps to have a sense of humor
- theology background
 - avoid too much apologetics, biblicalism, evangelicalism
 - root in what's authentically Catholic
 - with an eye to ecumenical relations

4. Also, identify and gather a Team

the team provides guidance and consistency

it also creates a "core community"

people growing in deeper communion with Christ
and who will give the time to this process

5. Hold a series of meetings as a Team over about six months

pray and study together, using Growing Faith or other resource

identify [the specific groups you hope to reach](#) within the parish

see the forms provided

[see the outline for first meetings suggested in D & V](#)

6. At the same time:

Begin [forming catechists and teachers](#) for the work ahead

this is a key step

you need leaders formed in the faith

you may even wish to spend a "first year" doing just this

Into the Fields is a strong resource for this

7. After a while:

Prepare a short, [written draft Pastoral Plan](#)

consider it "in process"

keep it simple and flexible – no ring binders!

plan for each element:

- Q of the Week and faith sharing in general
- Retreats
- Monthly Faith Gatherings of some kind
- Insert adult formation into existing groups
- The big welcome
- 50-50 partnership agreements
- Households of faith
- A more participatory liturgy
- Catechist formation

write up a draft calendar and plan the space, rooms, equipment

ask for help from other groups

rent space you don't have
don't be too timid
starting too slowly is like not starting at all

8. Invite each affected group to **feedback sessions,**

listen and respond
go to them, don't ask them to come to you
listen without being threatened

9. All the while:

Slowly **implement** while continuing to hold monthly Team meetings
to evaluate and adjust the Plan

10. Keep doing this forever

this may be the new role of the "pastoral council"