

ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC CENTER

MISSION STATEMENT, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES

2021-2022

Recent years of ministry in this local Church were rightfully focused on addressing the sexual abuse crisis and associated bankruptcy. The good work to strengthen safe environments and provide care for victims will continue to evolve and advance. We will stay focused on this important work.

Without losing sight of this, the Archdiocesan leadership deliberately and resolutely seeks to move forward in faith and hope guided by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to fulfill its mission. The entire Archdiocese is now engaged in a Synod and Archdiocesan leadership has undertaken several detailed studies - including an Organizational Health Assessment of the Archdiocesan Catholic Center - to set a unified vision and clear priorities for our local Church.

What is the Archdiocesan Catholic Center (ACC)?

- The ACC is the central office of the Archdiocese and is comprised of the Archbishop, the auxiliary bishop, vicars, employees and staff. The ACC is located in St. Paul.

What studies or activities informed this work?

- In addition to the Synod and assessment of the ACC's organizational effectiveness noted above, the Archdiocese is continuing to implement the Roadmap for Catholic Education, has implemented the Disciple Maker Index, and has completed an initial study of demographic and financial trends.
- The question of how these endeavors fit together is addressed here.

How will the Organizational Health Assessment assist the ACC in leading and supporting this local Church?

- The Assessment involved 35 interviews and 771 surveys of stakeholders throughout the Archdiocese concerning how the ACC is functioning. The feedback showed both marked strengths and weaknesses. Under a plan called Project Isaiah, the ACC will take actions to improve by directly addressing the concerns raised in the Assessment.
- A first step is to provide better clarity on future direction. This document includes the Archdiocesan mission statement, established in 2010, and provides a new ACC mission statement, along with priorities and initiatives to begin providing that clarity.

Archdiocesan Mission Statement (2010)

Making the name of Jesus Christ known and loved by promoting and proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed through vibrant parish communities, quality Catholic education, and ready outreach to the poor and marginalized.

ACC Mission Statement (2020)

To assist the apostolic ministry entrusted to the Archbishop, the ACC provides Christ-centered leadership and support to clergy, parishes, schools and other Catholic entities serving the evangelistic mission of this local Church.

Why are there two mission statements?

- The Archdiocesan mission statement defines the core Gospel mission that the Archbishop, the ACC, Catholic entities and all the faithful are called to fulfill together as a local Church.

- The ACC mission statement defines the ACC's role in supporting clergy, parishes and schools, as well as other Catholic entities. A cross-section of representatives from inside and outside the ACC developed it as a working document that may continue to evolve, but offers immediate and necessary focus.

ACC Strategic Priorities

1. **Synod:** Complete the Synod and prepare ACC and parishes for its implementation.
2. **Schools:** Continue to implement the Roadmap for Excellence in Catholic Education.
3. **ACC Organizational Effectiveness:** Complete and implement the Project Isaiah plan to improve organizational effectiveness of the ACC.
4. **Resources:** Align limited resources – ministerial, financial, and property – to serve the faithful through viable and vibrant parishes.

We are the Church and not a business. Isn't this all a bit corporate?

- The critical importance of the Church's mission warrants excellent day-to-day management and operational effectiveness.
- These initiatives will help the ACC as well as clergy, parishes and schools, and other Catholic entities to fulfill their particular mission.

How will this make a positive difference in my parish or school?

- Improving organizational health at the ACC will have a direct impact on the timeliness and quality of the leadership and support it provides.

How can I help?

- Be open to the strategic priorities and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in positive ways as we together move forward united in Jesus Christ.
- Engage in the process. If you have suggestions, concerns or questions, please share those with the ACC directly (see backside for ACC contact information for each Strategic Priority).
- There will be changes in how we function and communicate. We ask for your patience and prayers.

ACC PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES

The work of the ACC involves the day-to-day operations necessary to fulfill its mission along with specific initiatives to improve and grow. An initiative is not a permanent program, but rather a particular task with a start and an end date designed to improve ACC operations immediately and in the long-term.

SYNOD

Complete the Synod and prepare the ACC and parishes for its implementation.
ACC contact: synod@archspm.org

1. Year 1: The Church Listens (2019-2020)

Based on 35,000 comments from over 8,000 participants at 30 Prayer & Listening events, Archbishop Hebda established three Synod focus areas:

- Forming parishes that are at the service of evangelization.
- Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus' love and respond to his call.
- Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young.

2. Year 2: The Church Prepares (2020-2021)

- Praying with Scripture Series
- Healing and Hope Virtual Retreat
- Faith and Culture Series
- Synod at Home – Growing in Faith Together

3. Year 3: The Church Engages (2021-2022)

- Parish Consultation with Small Groups (Fall 2021)
- Deanery Consultation (Jan.-Feb. 2022)
- Archdiocesan Synod Assembly (June 3-5, 2022)
- Pastoral Letter (Christ the King, Nov. 20, 2022)

SCHOOLS

Continue to implement the Roadmap for Excellence in Catholic Education.
ACC contact: catholicschools@archspm.org

1. **Talent Management:** Design and implement a framework to recruit, train, form, and retain a full pipeline of joyful Catholic school leaders.
2. **Curriculum and Assessment:** Define and implement Principles of Student and Institutional Excellence Framework in Catholic Schools that will promote quality Catholic education across the Archdiocese.
3. **Access and Sustainability:** Ensure that Catholic schools of the Archdiocese have the resources to be financially sustainable so cost is not a barrier for any family seeking a rigorous Catholic education.
4. **Mission schools and their Governance:** In service to those Catholic schools with the highest concentration of poverty and need, and in collaboration with community partnership, build out the Drexel Mission School Initiative.
5. **Local Governance and Evolution to an Archdiocesan Education Office:** Clarify governance roles and practices in Catholic schools of the Archdiocese and strengthen the role and responsibility of the Office for the Mission of Catholic Education.

ACC ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Complete and implement the Project Isaiah plan to improve organizational effectiveness of the ACC.
ACC contact: acceffectiveness@archspm.org

1. Clearly establish the strategic direction of the Archdiocese, the mission and role of the ACC in carrying out that strategic direction and ensure alignment of all people and activities within the ACC to meet the needs of those it supports.
2. Improve key elements of the ACC's day-to-day operations including priority setting and project management, decision making, communications, and accountability for results and impact.
3. Focus on talent development to help ensure everyone manifests their gifts fully in support of the work of the ACC and our local Church.

RESOURCES

Align limited resources – ministerial, financial, and property – to serve the faithful through viable and vibrant parishes.
ACC contact: alignresources@archspm.org

The Archdiocese is assessing the needs across our 12-county area and how our local Church can best serve those needs in the coming decades. More information about next steps will be forthcoming.