



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE PARISH PLAN

1. WHY PARISH PLANNING MATTERS

Effective planning creates:

- Clear direction and focus
- Alignment between ministries and mission
- Greater accountability and transparency
- Stronger stewardship of parish resources
- A healthier and more connected parish culture

Planning Connects

- Purpose → Right Foundation
- Plan → Clear Priorities
- People → Positive Behaviors

2. TYPES OF PARISH PLANS

Annual Plan (1-Year)

- Recommended starting point for many parishes
- Best for:
 - Limited planning history
 - Smaller teams or resources
- Focuses on achievable annual priorities

Strategic Plan (3-Year)

- More comprehensive and long-term
- Requires greater investment of time and leadership
- Aligns ministries, programs, and resources around future growth

Revitalization Plan

- Designed to address urgent or specific parish challenges
- Focuses attention on areas limiting parish health or momentum

3. BUILDING THE PARISH PLAN

Foundation Phase

- Conduct a Parish Leadership Retreat
- Review:
 - Mission
 - Vision
 - Values
 - Parish culture
- Establish:
 - 3–6 key annual priorities
 - Parish leadership principles

Development Phase

- Identify ministry and program actions needed
- Align with:
 - Metropolis direction
 - Parish calendar
 - Budget priorities
- Seek approvals from:
 - Parish Council
 - Parish Assembly
 - Proistamenos

4. PARISH PLANNING BEST PRACTICES

Plan First, Then Budget

- Priorities and goals should guide financial decisions
- Budget should support mission—not define it

Expand Participation

- Involve:
 - Clergy
 - Parish Council
 - Ministry leaders
 - Parishioners

Use Measurable Goals

- Establish clear objectives and milestones
- Regularly evaluate progress

Align with the Parish WHY

- Ensure all initiatives support the parish mission and purpose

LEADING CHANGE IN THE PARISH

5. COMMUNICATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Successful parish plans require consistent communication:

- Share priorities with the parish
- Provide regular progress updates
- Integrate planning discussions into:
 - Parish Council meetings
 - General Assemblies
 - Ministry discussions

Leadership Principles

- Be transparent
- Adjust plans when necessary
- Clearly explain changes and decisions

6. STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TAKEAWAYS

A Strong Parish Plan Should:

- Be mission-driven
- Encourage broad participation
- Create clarity and accountability
- Strengthen parish unity & momentum
- Connect ministries to measurable outcomes

Key Insight

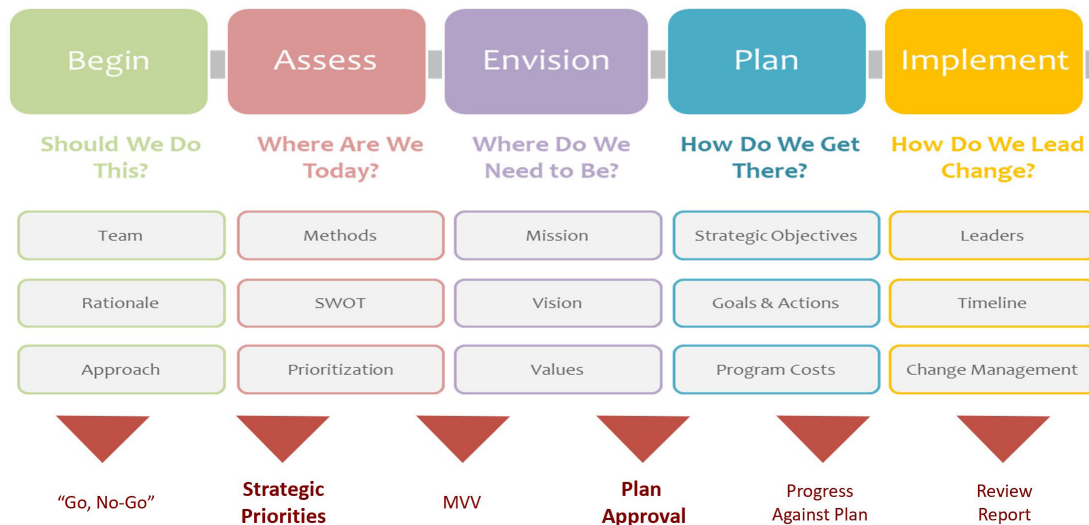
"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice."
– Proverbs 12:15

BOTTOM LINE

A well-developed parish plan serves as a roadmap that helps clergy and lay leadership move the parish from:

Vision → Priorities → Action → Parish Vitality

Our Strategic Plan Approach



HAVE A QUESTION?

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LEADERSHIP
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