

Diocese of Springfield in Illinois Planning Values

The following is a listing of the values outlined by the Diocesan Planning Committee to guide all aspects of the Diocesan Parish Pastoral Planning process. Individual parishes and Regional Planning Groups are asked to reflect on these values and to incorporate them into their deliberations.

- We believe that the Holy Spirit is leading the planning process.
- The support and nurture of healthy, viable parishes is paramount to our efforts. It is important to have a vision of what we want in parish life. (see Appendix F)
- Every effort should be made to keep the weekend Mass available and central to our planning efforts.
- Where there is a decrease in the number of priests to serve a given area, every effort should be made to maintain the number of salaried positions by hiring professional ministers to provide ministry.
- Planning should include proposals for the recruitment, formation, affirmation and support for priests, deacons, religious, professional lay ministers and volunteers for ministry in our parishes.
- It is assumed that all proposals for the future will be faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church, i.e. ordination of married men and women.
- Every parish in one way or another is to have a pastor assigned to it or a parish life coordinator with a priest moderator.
- Every effort should be made to provide opportunities for all members of the parish to be aware of and involved in the planning process.
- Parish priests should not say more than four weekend Sunday Masses.