

The Most Reverend
Wilton D. Gregory
Archbishop of Atlanta



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Archdiocese is, at her core, a family. As in any family, it is important periodically to gather around the table and just talk. What's working and what's not? Are we the people who we say we are – who God calls us to be? How can we be better? The time to have those conversations, of course, is when things are calm and everyone is healthy, not during moments of crisis or euphoria when nerves may be raw and judgments clouded.

After careful consultation with Catholics throughout the 69 counties of our Archdiocese and with prayerful consideration, I am pleased to share my vision of the Pastoral Plan that will guide our Archdiocese for the next five years. This document focuses on “what” we must do. There are many details that will be worked out regarding “how” we will move forward as we continue to communicate our expectations of and our commitments to one another as members of this unique and remarkable family of faith.

The lasting fruit of this Pastoral Plan will be revealed in the way that we, as Church, fulfill the Great Commission Jesus gave His apostles and us:

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

It should be noted that the manner in which we move forward may differ among our parishes – and this is good – since each of our faith communities, while tightly connected to the Universal Church, has its own unique culture and character.

I ask you to join me in praying each day for the success of our Pastoral Planning process. May the Lord richly bless every member of our Archdiocese of Atlanta family of faith!

Sincerely in Christ,

✠ Wilton D. Gregory
Archbishop of Atlanta



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA
Pastoral Plan



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The Pastoral Plan is also available in
Spanish, Korean, Portuguese, French
and Vietnamese online at:

pastoralplan.archatl.com

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Pastoral Plan



The foundation of any diocesan Pastoral Plan is the continued need to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, which is that God knows us intimately, loves us dearly, and challenges us to know Him intimately. With the confidence of Jesus' unconditional love, hope prevails. A deep joy is possible even in the midst of trials and tragedy. In Jesus is found happiness and a peace that the world cannot give.

Jesus' Love is for you ... and for everyone.

In March of 2014, I invited all Catholics, practicing or not, to join me on a journey to discern a new Pastoral Plan for our Archdiocese. This starting point began the work of creating a new plan that would meet today's pastoral needs of the people of God. Each one of you is in the Pastoral Plan because the hope and the love of Jesus Christ are for each of you.

Four areas of Catholic life were strongly identified to be in need of our attention:

Knowing Our Faith

We will work together to:

- Move to a family formation model that recognizes the diversity of family units today and that emphasizes the head of the family's role in faith formation.
- Prioritize adult catechesis.
- Offer more opportunities to participate in parish life as a family – service days, spiritual activities, social events.



Living Our Faith

We will work together to:

- Promote understanding the "why" behind the Church's teachings.
- Prioritize charity and service as the epitome of living out the faith.
- Encourage a deeper personal prayer life.
- Build a stronger sense of unity within the parish and increase personal connection to the parish.

Spreading/Keeping Our Faith

We will work together to:

- Promote and provide infrastructure for small faith communities to keep people connected to the Church.
- Use new technology and social media to keep the Church up to date and present in the lives of Catholics.
- Foster whole family programs to keep parishioners centered on the parish.
- Develop more formal outreach programs for groups who feel left out of the Catholic Church.

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The Evolution of Our Parishes

We will work together to:

- Let qualified laity/deacons do more administration so priests can focus on sacraments/catechesis.
- Empower deaneries to collaborate and share ministries, staff, and clergy resources.
- Create a welcoming and nurturing environment for all cultures within the parish.

Implementation of this Plan will occur over the next five years. While the majority of the work will be done in the parishes and deaneries, our Archdiocesan offices and ministries will be repositioned to support and enhance the creative efforts taking place in the parishes.

I invite each of you to join me in praying for the success of this important effort. We have been abundantly blessed in this Archdiocese. We must use all the gifts and talents with which we've been blessed to build up God's Kingdom here on earth. Each of us is called to do our part to Know our Faith, to Live our Faith, to Share our Faith and to participate in the Evolution of our Parishes as we continue to grow.

