



**CONVOCAATION OF  
SYNODAL PILOT PARISHES**  
**AUGUST 23 & 24, 2024**  
**St. Gregory the Great Parish**

**“Precisely at this time, when there is much talk and little listening, and when the sense of the common good is in danger of weakening, the Church as a whole has embarked on a journey to rediscover the word together.**

**Walk together...  
Question together...**

**Take responsibility together for community discernment, which for us is prayer, as the first Apostles did. This is synodality, which we would like to make a daily habit in all its expressions.”**

**Pope Francis**

(Excerpt from address to media representatives, August 26, 2023)



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# PROGRAM

## CONVOCATION OF SYNODAL PILOT PARISHES

### Friday, August 23, 2024

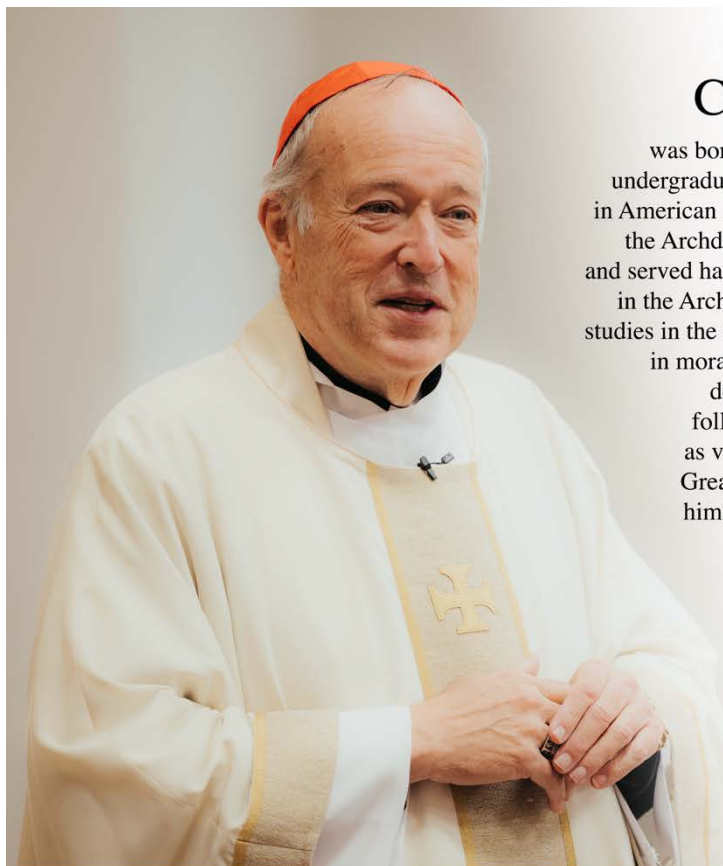
9:30 – 10:00 am	Check-in, Gathering, Hospitality Welcome: Fr. Bart Landry, CSP, Pastor of St. Gregory the Great
10:00 – 10:15 am	Gospel Reading, Reflection and Opening Prayer, Bishop Felipe Pulido
10:15 – 11:00 am	Cardinal McElroy... Re-imagine a Synodal Church
11:00 – 11:30 am	Synodal reflection at tables
11:30 – 12:00 pm	Q & A with Cardinal ( <i>Vevox with Sr. or Marioly</i> )
12:00 – 12:45 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
12:45 – 1:30 pm	Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI   <i>Collaborating in a Synodal Culture</i> Possible Question to share at the table (15 min) Presentation (30 min)
1:30 – 2:00 pm	Table Time
2:00 – 2:20 pm	Q & A
2:20 – 2:30 pm	Closing Remarks from Cardinal McElroy

### Saturday, August 24, 2024

9:30 – 10:00 am	Check-in, Gathering, Hospitality Welcome: Fr. Bart Landry, CSP, Pastor of St. Gregory the Great
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12:45 – 1:30 pm	Sr. Teresa Maya, CCVI   <i>Leading in a Synodal Culture</i> Possible Question to share at the table (15 min) Presentation (30 min)
1:30 – 2:00 pm	Q & A
2:00 – 2:20 pm	Presentation of Goals to Cardinal McElroy
2:20 – 2:30 pm	Closing Remarks from Cardinal McElroy







## Cardinal Robert W. McElroy

was born in San Francisco on February 5, 1954. He received his undergraduate education at Harvard, and received a master's degree in American history from Stanford in 1976. Entering the seminary for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, he was ordained a priest in 1980 and served as Parochial Vicar at St. Cecilia Parish and St. Pius Parish in the Archdiocese. In 1985 Archbishop Quinn asked him to pursue studies in the field of Catholic social teaching. He received a doctorate in moral theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and a doctorate in political science from Stanford in 1989. In the following years he served the Archdiocese of San Francisco as vicar general and for 15 years as pastor of St. Gregory the Great Parish in San Mateo. In 2010 Pope Benedict appointed him auxiliary bishop of San Francisco. In 2015 Pope Francis appointed him bishop of San Diego and Elevated him to Cardinal in August 27, 2022. Bishop McElroy has written two books: *The Search for an American Public Theology and Morality* and *American Foreign Policy*. In addition, he has written a series of articles on theology and public policy for a variety of journals. Cardinal McElroy is a member of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

## Sister Teresa Maya, CCVI

is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio. She has served as teacher, history professor, administrator, leader, facilitator, and speaker. She has a passion for the formation of ministers who are committed to the transformation of Church and society. She has a commitment to life-long learning and a strong conviction in the future of consecrated life. Sister Teresa got her B.A. at Yale University, her M.A. at the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley and her Ph.D. in El Colegio de Mexico in Mexico City. She served fourteen years in the leadership of her religious institute and on the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) presidency from 2016-19. She accompanies other religious congregations as facilitator and consultant. She is currently serving as Senior Director for Theology and Sponsorship in the Catholic Health Association (USA).



## The Spirit is Hovering Over San Diego... Six Months and Counting

It is hard to savor all that is going on these past six months in creating a culture of synodality in the Diocese of San Diego. And the Holy Spirit is very much the protagonist as Pope Francis often said in last October's *Synod on Synodality* in Rome.

In March 2024, Cardinal McElroy reached out to sixteen pastors to see if they would be interested in their respective parishes to be a pilot for creating a culture of synodality. He enlisted Bishop Felipe Pulido who serves as Vicar for Parish Life to head this initiative along with our Chancellor, María "Marioly" Galván and Paulist Father John Hurley. In the later part of March, Bishop Felipe and Father John visited each of the 16 pastors to test the waters.

As Father John said, "it is one thing to say, 'yes' to the Cardinal, however was 'no' an option?" The overwhelming conclusion was their "yes" was sincere and there was an openness to exploring a new way of being church. During these visits with each pastor, we invited them to think about some parishioners that they trust, have a strong confidence in their vision for the parish and are open to the Spirit in synodality.

On April 11, 2024, all sixteen pastors came together for a day-long meeting. They explored their hopes and concerns. Their hopes far outnumbered their concerns. They had two major concerns: 1. All the misinformation about synodality in social media and beyond and, 2. This is one more thing on their desk.

On April 23, 2024, all parish Re-Imagining Teams came together at the Pastoral Center for an evening. The energy in the room was exciting and energized. Seventy-eight members from the 16 Re-Imagining Teams were present. The teams have grown, and there are now 121 team members.

On April 24, 2024, the Steering Team held two meetings, one with the Parochial Vicars and one with the Permanent Deacons from the pilot parishes. Both meetings were very positive, and they too shared their hopes.

In June 2024, St. Luke Parish in El Cajon, asked if they could join as a synodal pilot parish which brings the total of pilot parishes to 17.

Throughout June, July and August, pilot parishes held five meetings re-imagining options for their parish life and leadership and developed goals for consideration.



Most reflected on the eight key points Pope Francis gave us to create a culture of synodality. Others reviewed the results from the listening sessions in preparation for the universal synod in their respective parishes. At the fifth meeting, the parishes reflected on all their goals and were encouraged not to choose too many and preferably two, one on parish life and one on leadership, and develop action steps in fulfilling those goals to begin implementation after August 2024. The other goals will not be lost, and the teams will come back to those goals as others are completed and develop action steps for ones the teams choose.

During July and August, a member of the Steering Team met with each of the sixteen parish teams individually to just sit in and see how things are going. It also provided a chance for the Steering Team to answer questions, but it was primarily a time to listen to the Holy Spirit working in the group.

Now six months since this initiative began, we are holding our first Convocation of Synodal Pilot Parishes. On Friday, August 23, the participants will be the parish pastor and staff from each of the synodal parishes and will focus on collaboration. On Saturday, August 24, participants will be members of the 17 Re-Imagining Teams, members of their parish councils along with diocesan seminarians, members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Diocesan Women's Advisory Committee and guests. On Saturday at the end of the convocation, Re-Imagining Team coordinators will present to Cardinal McElroy their top goals which their teams will begin working on.

Yes, it has been an energizing six months and the Holy Spirit is working in profound ways to bring greater vitality to our Synodal Pilot Parishes. And we are grateful to all who are a key part of this process of discernment.

### **Re-Imagining Steering Team**

Most Rev. Felipe Pulido, Vicar for Parish Life  
María "Marioly" Galván, Chancellor  
Paulist Father John Hurley



## Key Points Fostering a Culture of Synodality

Pope Francis has emphasized the importance of synodality – a participatory and collaborative approach to decision-making within the Church. Here are eight key points that contribute to fostering a culture of synodality.

1. **Communion:** Encourage a sense of unity and shared purpose among all members of the Church. Recognize that we are a part of a larger community, bound together by our faith.
2. **Participation:** Involve everyone in the discernment process. See input from clergy, religious, and laypeople alike. Their diverse perspectives enrich the conversation and lead to more informed decisions.
3. **Mission:** Keep the mission of evangelization at the forefront. The Church exists to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Synodality should serve this mission by empowering all believers to actively participate in spreading the Gospel.
4. **Mercy:** Embrace a compassionate and forgiving attitude. Recognize that God’s mercy is inexhaustible, and we should extend it to others. The Church, like a field hospital, should offer healing and hope to those wounded by life’s challenges.
5. **Renewal:** Understand that renewal begins within each individual heart. Personal encounters with Jesus Christ are essential. As Pope Francis wrote in “The Joy of the Gospel,” we must invite all Christians to such encounters.
6. **Rejecting a Throwaway Culture:** Challenge the prevailing mindset that treat people as disposable commodities. Instead, recognize the inherent dignity of every person. Pope Francis has consistently emphasized this in his teachings.
7. **Listening:** Actively listen to one another. Synodality thrives when we genuinely hear different voices, respecting their insights and experiences. Dialogue leads to growth and understanding.
8. **Guidance by the Holy Spirit (co-responsibility):** Acknowledge that the Holy Spirit guides the Church. Trust that the Holy Spirit enables everyone to contribute to the Church’s life. Synodality reflects this truth.





## **Re-Imagining Parish Life & Leadership in a Synodal Church**

Cardinal Robert McElroy shares with us some key insights on what synodality is like in our church and in our parish life.

1. A synodal church sees itself as the pilgrim people of God, constantly on journey toward the kingdom.
2. Synodality demands a profound stance of authentic listening from every believer.
3. Synodality seeks a church rooted in Word and Sacrament.
4. A synodal church constantly looks outward to the transformation of the world in light of the Gospel.
5. A synodal church is a humble and honest church.
6. A synodal church is inclusive, embracing all, *Todos, Todos, Todos*.
7. A synodal church is a particular church when active involvement in the church is nurtured.
8. A synodal church is a co-responsible church, where all members are welcomed to service and leadership in light of their Baptism.

***“Many who conducted listening sessions described being transformed by the process of listening to others’ stories and hearing about their faith journey. Those who shared their stories, especially those who participated in small group sessions, stated that they felt listened to by the Church for the first time.”***

*Cardinal Robert McElroy*





## **RE-IMAGINING PARISH LIFE AND LEADERSHIP GOALS IN 17 SYNODAL PARISHES**

### **Corpus Christi**

#### **Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal:**

A top goal for Parish Life is for more community and connection among parishioners. We want to make families want to be in our church and for the children and members to feel that sense of belonging.

- bringing forums into community that allow families to foster such as a better suitable cry room or children's liturgy.
- To establish belonging, there is the idea to make the OCIA process something that continues even after the sacrament with "reunion" events of some kind.
- Working on parishioners meeting and knowing one another better through intentional socialization and fellowship.

#### **Re-Imagining Leadership Goal:**

A top goal in Parish Leadership is with our Ministry Heads at the parish.

- Planning an upcoming meeting with all Ministry Heads to establish the meaning of "synodality" and being a church that is aligned with that message.
- How can Ministry heads better engage with their ministry members to foster connection and unity.

### **Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chula Vista**

#### **Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal:**

To better understand the Church's mission, we need to develop a committee of leaders who can guide and strengthen the parish community by seeking a better alignment with the spiritual goals and purposes of the Church.

- State the Mission and Vision of the Parish.
- Develop a committee to promote the Parish Mission.
- Involve Parishioners in discerning their role in the Parish Mission.

#### **Re-Imagining Leadership Goal:**

To develop committed leaders who can guide and strengthen the Mission and Vision of the parish.

- Identify key parishioners for leadership formation.
- Provide workshops to strengthen human and spiritual formation.
- Encourage active participation among the community and Church life.





## Our Lady of Grace

Dear Father Hurley,

*“Unity does not require uniformity, monotony, but the plurality and variety of voices, polyphony.”* Pope Francis.

Our Lady of Grace is honored to be invited by Cardinal McElroy to Re-imagining Parish Life and Leadership in a synodal church. Our listening is far from over and our template is far from complete. It represents a progress report based on “listening” to 75 participants.

OLG, like many other parishes in our Diocese, embraces fostering a culture of sodality. We have conducted two synods at OLG — one with Fr. Peter McGuine and one recently with Fr. Lauro Minimo — and submitted comments, along with other parishes from the Diocese. The comments were taken to Rome last October.

Based on OLG parishioner comments, we held a Body of Christ session in February and March this year. The series was conducted in a way that allowed people to interact in small groups, which was what we learned from the OLG synods.

When OLG was invited to participate in the Reimagining pilot, we saw it as an opportunity to continue our synod experiences at OLG. We arranged Listening Circle meetings with OLG groups, ministries and OLG school to engage in dialogue and pray for the Holy Spirit to take us on this mission-centered journey as a family.

Our reimagined vision for our parish, school and leadership is living our faith personally in a family of discipleship. We’ve only conducted four Listening Circles with 75 parishioners during this pilot phase and are providing only a progress report. Many goals in the template cannot be completed yet.

Our work continues. We are most grateful for this blessed opportunity to involve OLG in conversing about their heart’s desire for their faith life and their families, the parish, school and leadership.

Come Holy Spirit,

*Rev. Lauro Minimo*

*Kelly Czajka*

*Ken and Mary Discenza*

*Paul Durr*

*Elizabeth Pecs-Guerrero*

*Chet and Anna Marie Snyder*

Our Lady of Grace Reimagining Parish Life and Leadership





### **Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal: Participation**

By the end of November 2024, conduct Listening Circles with the following OLG groups:

- Men for Christ
- Youth program – catechetical and youth ministries
- OLG School parents
- OLG Parish at large
- OLG staff

Through prayer and discernment, strive to present and communicate what the Listening Circles are sharing in the way of their hearts' desires for faith life in OLG parish, school and leadership before the start of a new year.

Consider ways to continue building on OLG's synodal culture as reimagined by the parish, school and leadership.

### **Re-Imagining Leadership Goal: Participation**

By the end of October 2024, conduct Listening Circles with staff:

- Continue supporting and promoting Listening Circles as outlined in the Parish Life goal above.
- Consider ways to enhance OLG's synodal culture as reimagined by the parish, school and leadership.

## **Our Lady of Guadalupe, San Diego**

### **Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal:**

The following are among the goals of the Synodality Committee at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish:

- Building upon the successful parish synodality retreat in July, to provide a similar experience of synodality for the various ministry leaders.
- Building upon the parish synodality retreat in July, to continue to find ways that youth, young adults, and young couples find a home at OLG and therefore feel "seen."

### **Re-Imagining Leadership Goal:**

- To form an ongoing body, perhaps a pastoral council, or perhaps some other group, to help the parish and pastor discern our direction of activity.



## Sacred Heart, Brawley

### Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal: Mercy

Provide activities where families may share and grow spiritually.

- 'Days of Recollection' guided by priest and/or deacon.
- Offer 'Movie Night' in hall or outside when possible.
- Organize family events with hands on activities, i.e. advent wreath, Jesse trees, etc.
- Identify opportunities for private and shared meditations such as Stations of the Cross, retreats, and/or conferences.
- Utilize various ministries to assist with supplies and participation.
- Invite non-Catholics as appropriate.

### Re-Imagining Leadership Goal: Communion

Merge parish councils and combine activities from the 3 churches in our one community

- Merge the 3 parish's finance and pastoral councils into one with representation of all 3 parishes in our one community. Pastor to appoint members.
- Identify ministries suitable for sharing across campuses of our community.
- Create policy and/or guide for merged formation and training of altar servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers, etc.
- Develop a unified Catholic Community Calendar.

## Sacred Heart, Coronado

Top Goals for **PARISH LEADERSHIP** & Action Steps

### 1. Re-establish Pastoral Advisory Council

The Pastoral Advisory Council is an advisory body for the parish, pastor, and parish staff. The council is charged with discerning the needs of the Sacred Heart Parish and School Community. The council assists the pastor and parish staff in setting pastoral priorities and goals and empowering all parishioners to participate in the pastoral life of the parish. They advise the pastor in the decision making process and communicate with the parish leadership team in the development of parish pastoral strategies and policies.

The Pastoral Advisory Council will be established by February 2025. Beginning in September 2024, the pastor in collaboration with the parish staff and ministry leaders will begin to identify potential council members. Potential council members will be invited and interviewed by the pastor prior to an appointment to the council. Parishioners who are selected to serve in the pastoral advisory council will receive a written endorsement from the pastor in early January 2025, and formally installed as a pastoral advisory council member in February 2025. Proposed guidelines for the Pastoral Advisory Council will be drafted in October 2024; the guidelines will include the number of council members, the length of appointments for members, and the defined role of the council.



## 2. Hire a Parish Ministry Coordinator

The Parish Ministry Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating with the pastor and the parish ministry team in coordinating, managing, and expanding ministry activities at Sacred Heart Parish. The coordinator will assist in coordinating all parish ministry activities with parish staff and volunteer ministry leaders. The coordinator will also be responsible for working with the parish staff, pastor, and ministry leaders to energize and grow existing ministries, and support new ministry initiatives. The coordinator will have a leading role in recruiting ministry volunteers for all ministries within the parish.

Beginning in January 2025, write a position description for a Parish Ministry Coordinator. In February 2025, coordinate with the diocesan HR department to solicit applications for the subject position. In March 2025, interview potential candidates for the position. Hire a Parish Ministry Coordinator by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

### Top Goals for **PARISH LIFE** & Action Steps

#### 1. Promulgate a Parish Formation Plan and Schedule

Ideally, faith formation should consist of four mutually supporting components: (1) Intellectual, (2) Spiritual, (3) Humanistic, and (4) Pastoral. Generally, these four components are the foundation for priestly, diaconate, and religious formation in Our Church. The same components are necessary for the richest formation of the Catholic laity and should be the foundation for the formation of all Catholics. A formation plan that includes these four components will serve as a guide for the parish for the scheduling of events, activities, and liturgies to provide the most comprehensive opportunities for faith formation at Sacred Heart.

In September 2024, create a faith formation committee to discern and understand the needs and the opportunities for faith formation at Sacred Heart Parish. The committee will explore opportunities for formation as well as review the current formation programs within the parish. The committee will also develop of proposed calendar for 2025 for events and programs that foster continuing faith formation for the parish community. A 2025 calendar will be published by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

#### 2. Establish a Parish Ambassador Team

A parish ambassador team will be responsible for welcoming new parishioners as well as new community members in Coronado. The ambassadors will act as a bridge between new parishioners and parishioners with specific needs and the pastor and parish staff. Initially, a team of at least ten ambassadors will be established that represents the many diverse groups and ministries that form the Sacred Heart Community. Each ambassador will have a geographic area with the parish boundaries that he/she will be responsible. Additionally, there will be at least one ambassador responsible for parishioners that do not reside within the parish boundaries.

Beginning in February 2025, the pastor and the parish staff will recruit parish ambassadors. Parish Ambassadors will be installed in April 2025. The designated ambassadors will be responsible for publishing a succinct guidebook for parish ambassadors with a mission statement by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



## St. Anthony of Padua

### Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal:

St. Anthony of Padua recognizes Renewal as a top goal for parish life in the coming year. This a new beginning for our parish life as we are coming out completely from the shadow of the pandemic. After listening to parishioners and ministry leadership we are realizing that our parish is hungry for Christ in the Liturgy, catechesis and educational ministries. Our parishioners desire to gather and grow in faith, friendship and community.

- Teach the Culture of Synodality process to all leaders.
- Practicing the ministry of presence
- Enhancing our liturgical celebrations
- Providing opportunities for annual ministry updates and renewal of commitments
- Enhancing a welcoming and friendly-faith community
- Enhancing faith formation
- Creating a tangible outreach program and providing a culture of social justice.

### Re-Imagining Leadership Goal:

St. Anthony of Padua recognizes Listening as a top goal for parish leadership. Our goal is to teach and share with every ministry, group, and family how to actively listen. We will use the Synodal process of seeking understanding instead of just agreement and disagreement. Every gathering will provide for leadership to learn the process of Synodality and experience and encounter of the Risen Christ within the body of the Church.

- Leaders will facilitate the intentions of the council by allowing members to speak from the heart, listen from the heart, be spontaneous and speak from the heart and allow for leanness of expression.
- Every person will have a voice and be listened to starting with office staff, ministry leaders and servers.
- Catechists and Faith Formation participants especially the number one catechist at home, the parents, should feel listened to and heard.
- Leaders will reach out to all parishioners in the pews and will invite them to participate and experience the Culture of Synodality.

## St. Brigid

### Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal:

Saint Brigid Parish will continue to develop a culture of radical hospitality and belonging where all are welcome, with particular attention to those who are marginalized. This begins with the sacramental life and extends through all aspects of parish life.

- With regards to radical hospitality and belonging, assess what we do currently, create a vision for the future, and decide how to get there. Some ideas include: Our welcome and hospitality, first and foremost, begins at Mass, and extends to the other sacraments, and includes sacramental preparation.





- Strive to meet people where they are at, accompanying them, and help them with the next step in their spiritual journey.
- Continue to build on the momentum to support the LGBTQ+ and other marginalized communities.
- Encourage parishioners to share their faith lives/stories with others.
- Execute on these parish goals and action steps and along the way communicate these goals and our progress to the parish at large.

### **Re-Imagining Leadership Goal:**

Review the 478 responses from the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey that was collected in May 2024. Responses relate to drivers of parish satisfaction, belief in core Catholic teachings, and our effectiveness of parish support. Allow this parishioner feedback to shape our synod goals moving forward.

- Create a team of parishioners and staff to review and discuss the DMI survey results, synod themes, and National Eucharistic Revival Year of Mission tools in light of our parish mission to encounter, love, and serve Jesus, one another, and the world.
- Create and refine parish goals and action steps with the staff, synod team, and additional stakeholders. Execute on those goals and action steps.
- Communicate the DMI survey results and our Synod goals and action plan to the parish at large.

## **St. Didacus**

### **Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal:**

- Organize a ministry fair.
- Invite OCIA candidates to participate in a ministry as part of formation.
- Parish Posada.
- Organize Parish Advent events.
- Work on items that may come up from listening groups

### **Re-Imagining Leadership Goal:**

- Formation on listening/Listening retreat.
- Work on first synod questions.
- Create listening groups, develop questions and action items.
- Implement a parish suggestion box.

## **St. Gregory the Great**

### **Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal: Participation**

Seek out participation by youth, young adults, recently married couples and young families to join with established parishioners to discern ways to hear and respond to all voices so that they become further engaged in parish life.



- Establish diverse committee representing youth, young adults, recently married couples, young families and established parishioners to address the Goal. Leadership of committee to be established.
- Identify committee members during August, September, and October of 2024.
- Committee to begin task of identifying specific actions to be taken and establishing timelines starting in November of 2024.

### **Re-Imagining Leadership Goal: Listening**

With well-developed structure for governance through the STGG Parish Stewardship Council (PSC) in place review current effectiveness of the council. After review and adjustments, commission and empower 10 stewards to actively engage ministries under their responsibility by having the groups provide input on activities, goals, viability, needs, solutions, visions, and hopes. Each steward would report back to the general council with results.

- Establish a diverse committee to accomplish the above goal. Establish a team during August, September, and October 2024.
- Committee to begin task of identifying specific actions to be taken and establishing timelines starting in November of 2024.

## **St. Jude Shrine of the West**

### **Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal: Mission**

Work on more opportunities for personal encounter with Christ, including Holy Hour for all.

- Planning of Holy Hours, in addition to those already scheduling during day.
- To have it more accessible for those that work during weekdays.
- Planning of Retreats for Youth, and Parents, in addition to retreats organized by Marriage Group.

### **Re-Imagining Leadership Goal: Renewal**

Faith formation and leadership development for office staff, Ministry leaders, and Parish council.

- Faith formation activities will be continuous for office staff, Ministry leaders and parish council.
- Leadership training for parish staff, ministry leaders and parish council by 12/31/24.



## St. Luke

### Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal: Participation

STL will increase the active participation of the 18- 39-year-old young adult population in all organizational leadership roles, e.g., pastoral and finance councils, committees, ministries, and other parish leadership and support groups.

- Host quarterly formation and community-building activities, including Ministers of the Eucharist and the Word.
- Recruit young adults, both single and couples, to get involved with various parish leadership opportunities.

### Re-Imagining Leadership Goal: Renewal

STL will reach out to various contingencies of all demographics in our parish community so that they may experience personal encounters with Jesus.

- Sustain and embolden our existing efforts to advance our work with the youth and young adults by offering a Youth Mass.
- Develop a more comprehensive liturgical music ministry.

## St. Mary Star of the Sea, Oceanside

### Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal:

Create a Welcoming and Hospitality Ministry with the focused on engaging parish leadership, staff and parishioners in building a sense of radical hospitality throughout the parish.

- Create new ministry guidelines and invitations to join - by August 31
- Create ministry flyer and promotional slides – by September 2
- Present “New” ministry and plans to parish ministry leaders - October 1 (Spanish speaking Ministers) October 16 (English speaking ministries)

First meeting for New Ministry of Joyful Hospitality by “Peace begins with a smile” -Mother Teresa of Calcutta - October 20<sup>th</sup>

### Re-Imagining Leadership Goal:

Parish Re Imagining team will continue to gather to plan action steps for all key parish goals, emphasizing active listening within the parish to meet the needs our community.

- Update and improve parish website, bulletin and online news (Month of September).
- Leadership team will meet to continue to work on action steps (Team will meet September 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- Leadership team will continue to meet to prepare for parish wide presentation (September 10<sup>th</sup>).
- Presentation and listening session for parish ministry leaders (The session will present the parish goals and serve as the opportunity to listen to thoughts and suggestions from leaders - October 16<sup>th</sup>).



- Meeting with leadership team to review suggestions and revise plan and goals if necessary (October 24<sup>th</sup>).

## **St. Mary, Escondido**

### **Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal: Participation**

Request feedback from Parish community on what programs or events they would like to see/experience at St. Mary and ask how they can collaborate when creating these new initiatives.

### **Re-Imagining Leadership Goal: Participation**

Create a Parish health survey/needs assessment and request feedback from parishioners on programs or suggestions they would like to see/experience at St. Mary. Once feedback is received, review and vote on what needs to be implemented or adjusted and prioritize.

## **St. Therese, San Diego**

### **Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal:**

Host engaging activities that build spirituality and fellowship to foster a spirit of radical hospitality within targeted segments of our community, helping to form bonds with people within similar demographics:

- Creatively incorporate fun activities to build fellowship.
- Provide additional opportunities to better understand and appreciate our faith and the Mass.
- Develop a mentorship program for the newly initiated from OCIA and recently Confirmed to help them continue their faith-filled journey within the parish.

### **Re-Imagining Leadership Goal:**

Institute a new Ministry Coordination Team entrusted with revitalizing our current ministries to encourage broader participation, foster a greater sense of connection, relationship and fellowship. This team would be asked to lead the effort to:

- Encourage ministries to align their objectives with the parish mission to 'Love God, Serve Others and Bear Fruit'
- Inspire ministry leaders to nurture others to develop the skills and confidence needed to assume leadership roles.
- Develop a Volunteer Coordination Team to encourage broader participation in ministry functions and events.
- Increase our social media presence to allow ministries and the parish community to expand their faith and better connect with the parish and each other.





## St. Thomas More

### Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal:

Promote parishioner participation to be open to the Holy Spirit to see the need, both individually and for the good of the Church. Devote time, talent, and a decision-making perspective:

- Homily and scripture reflection after mass (Liturgy committee).
- Special monthly flyer / Catholic traditions (Parish staff).
- Small faith / prayer / fellowship sharing group (Family life and Spirituality).
- Fr. Brent Bible Study.
- Current directory (Church staff).
- Feature ministry every month (Ministry leads).
- Events that bring people together / clergy & laity: Pentecost dinner, fun activities (Social Ministry & Family, Life and Spirituality).
- Re-configuration of exiting mass (Parish leadership).

### Re-Imagining Leadership Goal:

Explore and develop workshops that emphasize empathic listening guided by the Holy Spirit. Strive for communication and active listening in/with difficult conversations among diverse groups, and misconceptions about the Catholic Church and its teachings. Review all ministries for relevancy: (Clergy & Ministry leaders).

- Survey
- Ministry Fair
- Catholic Traditions
- Parish Retreats
- Workshops on praying, listening and discernment.

## The Immaculata

### Re-Imagining Parish Life Goal:

Immaculata parishioners will be immersed in a culture of discernment to enhance their awareness, capacity, and openness to welcome the Holy Spirit's guidance, emphasizing the message that everyone from all walks of life and various stages of faith journey are called to discern.

- **Learn:** Create a “discernment series” for parishioners to explore key concepts and practices of discernment. We will select from local experts (e.g. St. Francis Seminary, the Franciscan School of Theology, and the local Jesuit community) to help guide our learning process.
- **Discern:** Provide opportunities to practice discernment. We will host discernment events focused on life state or life circumstance, e.g., “discernment for young children,” “discernment for teens,” “discernment for single adults,” “discernment for parents,” “discernment for seniors,” etc. Additionally, we will host events that aid parishioners in discerning their particular charisms and how to use these charisms in service to others.



- **Act:** Practice discernment and synodal listening in Immaculata activities. Encourage and inspire parishioners to practice discernment in everyday life. Create new ways for parishioners to share their charisms in the parish community.
- **Pray:** Publish discernment prayers in the bulletin and encourage use of the prayers in parish activities.

### **Re-Imagining Leadership Goal:**

Each year The Immaculata will select a mission focus to encounter Christ on the margins. This annual mission focus will inspire us to see God in the marginalized and oppressed and challenge us to go forth seeking their good [Evangelii Gaudium, #39]. In community, we will break down the barriers that divide God's family.

- **Select the mission:** Parish staff, Pastoral Council and other ministry leaders will select our mission using listening and discernment processes. Each mission topic will address specific contemporary issues of marginalization, oppression, and othering.
- **Learn:** Incorporate the mission message into homilies. Consider brief end-of-mass witness/impact statements; presentations by experts with listening circles to process what we heard; learning via book clubs and movie nights. Task social ministries, faith formation at all levels, and social groups to incorporate mission-focused learning and sharing. Research materials for families with children.
- **Discern:** Provide opportunities for prayerful reflection and contemplation. Consider mission-focused prayer services, stations of the cross, Taize, and rosaries. Promote online resources for personal reflection and discernment.
- **Act:** Sponsor parish events that enable parishioners to live the mission beyond our parish walls. For example, we might sponsor a parish encounter and service event like We See You San Diego or serve a meal at Our Lady of Guadalupe Migrant Shelter—mercy. Concurrently we could promote awareness of the social structures that perpetuate the suffering and ways to address it— justice.

**Pray:** Prayer is key. At minimum, each parish mission event will begin and end in prayer. Include in our intercessory mass prayers those we seek to serve on mission; also include prayers for our journey as a community. Publish mission-focused prayers in our bulletin, as well as profiles of inspirational saints and saintly people who also embraced our selected mission.



## NEXT STEPS

### **To All Synodal Pilot Pastors, Re-Imagining Team Coordinators and Teams,**

We want to first express our gratitude to the pastors, first for saying “yes” to Cardinal McElroy and, secondly for choosing key parishioners to join you in this initiative with an openness and enthusiasm which we witnessed throughout these past six months.

This weekend is an opportunity for all of us to experience how the Holy Spirit is at work among us in the presentation of the top goals for each parish.

Now as we move forward to fulfill your goals, we thought it would be helpful to share some next steps with you as you work on your action steps towards making your goals a reality.

1. As you review the goals of your fellow pilot parishes there may be some similarities among certain goals. This provides you with an opportunity to check in with other pastors/coordinators to know how they are addressing similar goals.
2. Please make sure you keep us in the loop on dates, minutes and any needs you may have by adding Fr. John Hurley, CSP in the Vicar for Parish Life office to your team email lists.
3. **Please mark your calendar for a check-in meeting on [January 16, 2025] with Cardinal McElroy and the Synodal Parish Steering Team.**

As always, we are grateful for the meetings we had with all of you these past six months and we look forward to assisting you in any way we can.

Please feel free to contact the Vicar for Parish Life Office at [jhurley@sdccatholic.org](mailto:jhurley@sdccatholic.org)

### **Synodal Parish Steering Team**

Bishop Felipe Pulido  
María “Marioly” Galván  
Father John Hurley, CSP



# Our San Diego Synod PIN Description

I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities. Pope Francis, EG33

This is precisely what the Synod on Synodality is hoping for the Universal Church. And our bishop, Cardinal McElroy brought this much closer to home by inviting seventeen pastors and parishes to explore creating a culture of synodality. We've only just begun. However, great things are happening.

We invite you to wear this pin anytime, however especially at diocesan and parish events.

By wearing this pin, you acknowledge your participation in Re-Imagining Parish Life & Leadership in a Synodal Church and in particular your parish in your openness to the Holy Spirit. Since the pin has no writing on it people may say, "That's a nice pin" or "What does it mean?" It presents you with an opportunity to share a positive perspective of what synodality is about in our local church and in your parish.





## NOTES



# PILOT PARISHES

## **Cathedral Deanery**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe (San Diego)*

*St. Didacus*

*St. Jude Shrine of the West*

## **El Cajon Deanery**

*Our Lady of Grace*

*St. Therese*

*St. Luke*

## **El Centro Deanery**

*Sacred Heart (Brawley)*

*St. Anthony of Padua*

## **Escondido Deanery**

*St. Gregory the Great*

*St. Mary's (Escondido)*

## **Mission Deanery**

*The Immaculata*

*St. Brigid*

## **Oceanside Deanery**

*St. Mary Star of the Sea*

*St. Thomas More*

## **South Bay Deanery**

*Corpus Christi*

*Our Lady of Guadalupe (Chula Vista)*

*Sacred Heart (Coronado)*