



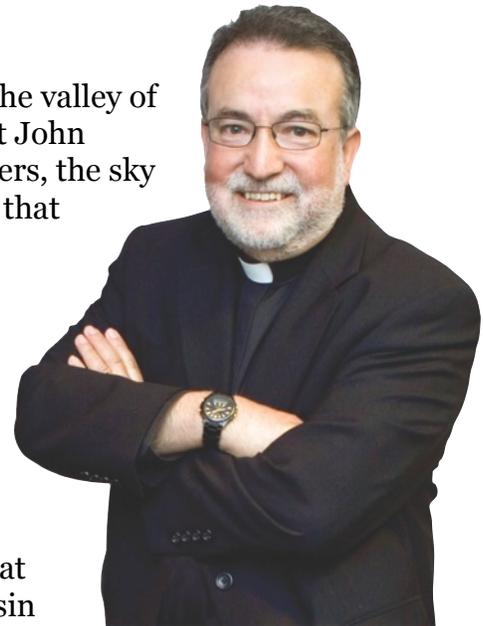
“The Church in Sacramento will be a hopeful and effective **Sacrament of Christ in Northern California.**”


Most Rev. Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento, California

In the gospel account of Matthew, Jesus comes into the valley of the River Jordan. It is there, on the shores of the River, that John baptized Jesus of Nazareth. As Jesus came up from the waters, the sky was opened, and he saw the Holy Spirit come upon him. In that ancient river valley, Jesus began his public ministry.

This ministry continues today in the vast Northern Valley, nourished by the waters of the Sacramento, American, and Feather Rivers. The same Spirit that came upon the Lord Jesus now settles upon all those who choose to follow the Christ.

John the Baptist was reluctant at first to baptize the Christ. The Lord insisted because the Kingdom of God was at hand, and he wanted to take upon himself the remission of sin so that the world could be reconciled to God. Jesus came as the servant of the kingdom, the suffering servant. From the moment of his baptism in the River Jordan, he would justify many, and their guilt he would bear (cf. Is. 53:11).



What began in the flowing waters of the River Jordan would become a living stream of blood and water flowing from his side as he hung upon the cross. This is a sacramental river of mercy flowing from the temple of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This mystical current must rise and flow over the entire valley of Sacramento. As prophesied by the prophet Ezekiel, *“Along both banks of the river, fruit trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail. Every month they shall bear fresh fruit, for they shall be watered by the flow from the sanctuary. Their fruit shall serve for food, and their leaves for medicine”* (Ez. 47:12).

Because we have been immersed in the baptism of Jesus, we take upon ourselves this same mission. Ours is an evangelizing mission. We perform this work most effectively when we ourselves become “el Sacramento”, the sacrament of the Lord’s joy and hope for the whole of the Sacramento valley.

To do this task well, I am calling upon the Catholic people of Sacramento to revitalize Catholic education, invigorate the formation of the laity, encourage our youth and young adults, challenge them to serve Christ and His Church, announce the Gospel in the public

square of social media, serve the poor and marginalized more effectively, and harness the resources so all this can be done.

The Catholic Community was convened by my predecessor, the Most Reverend William Weigand, for a Diocesan Synod in 2004. Many of the pastoral initiatives outlined here come from that initial ecclesial discernment process. I hope this effort will carry forward the accomplishments of the 2004 Synod with renewed enthusiasm for the mission entrusted to us by the Lord Jesus.

Catholic Education

Catholic Education is one of the great legacies of the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento. Because of the wise and generous sacrifices of previous generations, many skilled, knowledgeable, and committed lay men and women are serving both the Church and the wider California society. To help preserve the legacy of Catholic Education and providing its rich bounty to present and future generations, I will call upon more of the laity to be co-workers in this endeavor. Bringing their wisdom, talent and treasure to this important evangelical enterprise, we will together renew the mission of Catholic Schools. Catholic Schools will provide a quality Catholic education more accessible to the poor. It will develop Catholic men and women who know their faith and serve as the leaven of Christ in society.



Formation of the Laity

As St. Paul tells us, “**There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone**” (1 Cor. 12:4-6). The gifts given to God’s people should be nurtured and developed for all areas of the Church’s life. To do this, we will promote a faith formation program that offers opportunities at the parish, deanery, diocesan, and university level. We will identify and nurture 400 catechists for the elementary and secondary levels of religious instruction. We will also develop a native faculty of men and women to be

master catechists as well as instructors with university degrees so that there is a ready number of teachers for the ongoing formation of lay catechists and lay ministers in the Church. Special efforts will be given to identify and cultivate potential candidates from the various ethnic communities in the Diocese.

Youth Ministry

In the early chapters of the Gospel of John, two men met the Lord Jesus on the road. Their first question to him was, “**Where do you live?**” (Jn. 1:35-39). Young men and women will make the decision to follow Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church if they have the opportunity to meet him in their own journey. Youth and young adult ministry requires an investment of time and resources. There must be sufficient number of ministers to be leaders, catechists, and mentors. Opportunities both online and in parishes will be provided for Catholic formation and fellowship so that young people can learn to be good disciples of Christ



and faithful companions with one another on their common journey of faith. The three Newman Centers in the Diocese as well as other resources for college youth will serve as centers for fellowship, worship, and the discernment of Christian vocations.

Vocations

In the second letter to Timothy, the older Paul encouraged the younger Timothy “*to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands*” (2 Tim. 1:6). We are given a glimpse into the relationship that enabled Timothy to carry on the work of Paul. This very human relationship was the instrument of the Holy Spirit ensuring the further extension of the Gospel of Jesus. As we seek to encourage vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, Paul’s fellowship with Timothy reminds us of the simple, yet fundamental task of fostering the same fellowship with young people today so that we can encourage them to “*stir into flame*” that same gift of the Spirit in their own hearts and minds.



Families have always served as a crucible for good faith and devout practice in children and young people. This will continue to be important alongside the occasion for young people to experience the faith within the wider context of the parish and the diocese. Consistently, many of the young seminarians from Sacramento began discerning their vocations while participating in an active youth ministry or young adult program. There is a vital link between vocational promotion and youth ministry that must be cultivated among our parishes and University Newman Centers.



Communications

At the beginning of the Gospel according to Mark, Jesus enters the synagogue and begins to preach. The Gospel says, “*The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority*” (Mk. 1:22). The Lord Jesus taught with authority. He also effectively used the opportunities and resources of his time. He went to the local synagogue and spoke in parables using the metaphors of his time: the flocks of sheep and the goats (Mt. 25:31-46), the mustard seed

(Mk. 4:30-32), the yeast in the dough (Lk. 13:20-21), the wedding feast (Mt. 22:1-14), the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:25-37), the oil burning lamps, and so many other images drawn from daily life (Mt. 25:1-13).

The Church has continued this incarnational craft through the centuries; seeking both the occasions and the expressions that can best bring the brilliance of the Gospel into the daily lives of people. Blessed Pope John Paul II encouraged us not to tire of this good work when he urged the Church to pursue a New Evangelization. He said: “*Look to the future with*

commitment to a New Evangelization, one that is new in its ardor, new in its methods, and new in its expression” (CELAM, March 9, 1983).

We are experiencing today a technological revolution that has altered communication in ways more radical than the invention of the printing press around 1440. Under the umbrella of the new media, these now prevalent communication technologies are an important tool to reach out to all of God’s people in the diocese, communicate with them effectively, as well as enable more effective evangelization and formation. We will invest in resources that will greatly increase the reach and effectiveness of our communications and increase the participation in our formation programs at all levels. We will employ technology to ensure that formation opportunities remain readily accessible to everyone in our diocese. We will employ social networking tools to reach out to others in Internet communities.



Sacramentum Caritatis (The Sacrament of Charity)

In chapter thirteen of the Gospel according to John, Jesus takes off his cloak and kneels before his disciples to wash their feet. In the place of the Last Supper narrative found in the other three Gospel accounts, John conveys to us the sacramental meaning of the Eucharistic, using the gesture of Christ washing the feet of his friends. This Johannine story, instead of the other Gospel narratives of the Last Supper, is the text heard every Holy Thursday evening. John clearly communicates the amazing charity with which the Lord Jesus offered himself to his disciples, and to the many, the night

before he died on the cross. The Sacrifice of the Mass is where the charity of the Church begins.

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, reminds us of this in his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*: “*A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented*” (#14). Jesus’ ritual at the Last Supper passed over into the concrete practice of charity on the cross of Calvary. For believing hearts, the washing of the feet and the flowing of blood and water from the Lord’s side is the united, singular offering of the Sacred Heart of Christ.



The Holy Father continues this sacramental theme in his Apostolic Exhortation on the Eucharist, *Sacramentum Caritatis*: “*The relationship between the Eucharistic mystery and social commitment must be made explicit*” (#89).

In the Diocese of Sacramento, we will make explicit the relationship between the Eucharistic mystery of the Mass and our commitment to serve society with the truth and beauty of the Gospel. The implementation of the third edition of the Roman Missal has already

awakened a renewed interest in the divine mystery we celebrate. This implementation will not be complete unless we allow the truth and grace of the altar to flow into the social and political life of Northern California.

Resource Development

Much of what we hope to achieve in the coming year requires a oneness of heart and mind. This plan also calls us to bring together our gifts so that they can build up the Body of Christ. One common story among the Gospel accounts is the multiplication of the loaves (cf. Mt. 14; Mk. 6; Lk. 9; Jn. 6). In each of these accounts, the Lord Jesus asks his followers to bring forth the little they have. It is from these small gifts that the Lord brings forth his bounty and satisfies the hunger of those who have come weary and worn to him.

We will respond to Christ's abiding invitation to bring forward our gifts so that, with the Lord, we can teach, nourish, and nurture God's people in the Sacramento Valley.

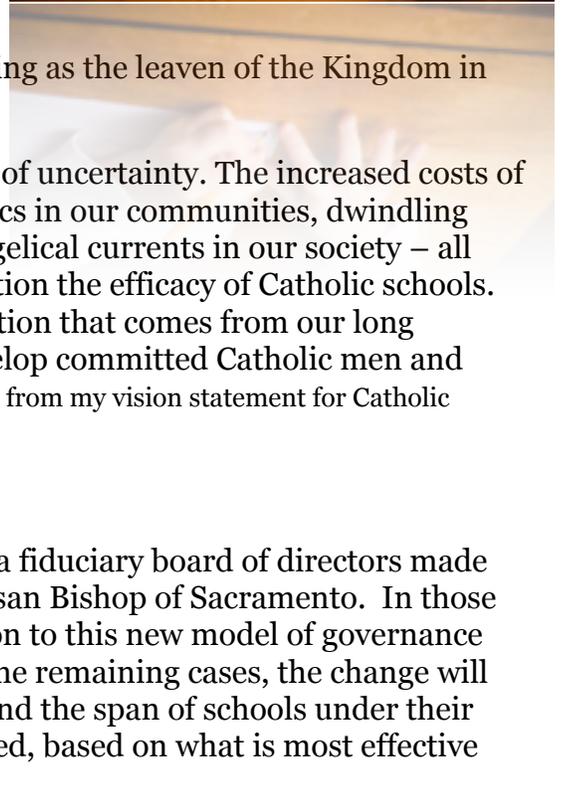
Catholic Education

The Diocese of Sacramento has a proud legacy of Catholic education that has prepared men and women devoted to following the Lord Jesus. They are serving today in many of our parishes and schools. Even more importantly, they are working in various walks of life serving as the leaven of the Kingdom in society.

In recent years, this legacy has come under a cloud of uncertainty. The increased costs of offering a quality Catholic education, shifting demographics in our communities, dwindling enrollments in many of our schools, and strong anti-evangelical currents in our society – all these have caused many clergy, religious and laity to question the efficacy of Catholic schools. Despite these daunting challenges, there is still the conviction that comes from our long experience: Few other pedagogical approaches better develop committed Catholic men and women ready to follow Jesus than Catholic schools. (Taken from my vision statement for Catholic Schools published in January, 2011.)

Vision

All Catholic schools will eventually be managed by a fiduciary board of directors made up of the Catholic laity under the governance of the Diocesan Bishop of Sacramento. In those cases where there is evident and urgent need, the transition to this new model of governance will take place over the course of the next three years. In the remaining cases, the change will take place when most opportune. The number of boards and the span of schools under their management will be determined as the plan is implemented, based on what is most effective and efficient.



Action Steps

The Diocese of Sacramento, along with our parish and school communities, will dedicate both human and financial resources to invest in key strategic areas that will ensure the following:

- Catholic Identity and faith formation of our students
- Academic superiority
- Financial stability
- Accessibility: Our goal is to make Catholic education work in all communities, not just some.

The development of the financial resources to sustain and grow Catholic education in the diocese will be a primary element of a future capital campaign. The capital campaign will strengthen endowments for tuition support as well as support capital improvement for Catholic elementary schools and diocesan high schools.

The process for the restructuring of Catholic education in the diocese has already begun. Future steps are outlined in the Vision Statement for Catholic Education, 2011, published in January 25, 2011. For more information, please go to www.csdsac.org/statement.pdf



Formation of the Laity

In the diocese today, 25,541 children are involved in parish-based faith formation programs in both English and Spanish. The diocese has 2,280 catechists, of which approximately 35% hold Basic Catechist Certificates with another 13% in formation. Only 14 parish catechetical leaders in our diocese hold master catechist certificates or Masters degrees (3 serving Spanish speaking programs).

Vision

Forming disciples of Jesus in the faith is a lifelong process. Effective evangelization and formation of the young requires adequate evangelization and formation of their parents as well as the whole Catholic community.

In addition to regular Sunday Mass attendance, all Catholic families should have an active prayer life. Catholics should develop habits of piety and stewardship that includes acts of penance, works of charity and justice, involvement in parish ministries, and intentional formation in the Catholic faith. The home should be a domestic church where the faith is proclaimed, lived, and prayed. We will promote a culture in every parish that promotes lifelong faith formation and practice. Special emphasis will be given to adult faith formation for the development of habitual Catholic living.

Catechetical preparation for infant baptism and marriage will be enhanced so that these key moments for evangelization and catechesis can serve to incorporate families more effectively into the life of Christ and the Church.

To support this, we will identify and adequately train our lay ministry leaders and develop, in cooperation with our parish communities, more positions in lay ecclesial ministry. Over the next five years, the Diocese of Sacramento will certify an additional 400 lay ministry leaders at the basic level and 100 lay ministry leaders at the advanced level in one of several specializations. We will mentor and support 25 candidates for Masters Degrees or Masters level certificate programs. Special attention will be paid to recruit lay leaders from the Hispanic, Asian and Black communities to these formation opportunities.

An increase in the number of Master Catechists and certified basic catechists will allow the parishes to improve the quality of parish-based catechetical programs as well as expand opportunities for cradle-to-grave formation. The Diocese will have available a more accessible faculty of committed, competent Catholic catechists with whom to promote the on-going cultivation and training of catechists.



Action Steps

- Develop new opportunities to convene Catholic men and women of all ages for conferences, retreats, concerts and the like. This will be accomplished through enhanced collaboration among diocesan departments, parishes and deaneries.
- Work with all basic formation programs offered by the Diocese, the School of Faith, and the apostolic movements to ensure that they provide a consistent, coordinated process of formation for all participants as well as meet the standards for Basic Catechist Certification from the California Catholic Conference.
- Encourage qualified Directors of Religious Education to offer parish-based catechist certification programs using approved resources.
- Develop and promote online and distance learning resources for basic certification.
- Develop basic level specialization courses in several pastoral areas to be offered twice per year. These courses will satisfy the California Catholic Conference Basic Certification Standards. Such courses will include: catechesis, sacramental catechesis, new media evangelization, RCIA, youth & young adult ministry, natural family planning, marriage preparation, liturgy, social justice, respect life issues, marriage preparation and family life, as well as special needs ministry.
- Develop an 8-10 hour discernment retreat to be used as the spiritual formation piece to compliment the Basic Catechist Certification.
- Work closely with existing Parish Catechetical Leaders to help them complete Master Catechist Certification

- Develop and launch a unified 3-year Advanced Certification program in English and Spanish that satisfies the California Catholic Conference standards for Master Catechist certification. It will also provide advanced level specialization for lay ministry leaders and Deacon candidates.
- Identify and mentor promising lay ministry leaders for Masters level degree programs in theology and pastoral ministry.
- Encourage and support the formation of cluster and deanery support groups of parish ministry leaders for on-going training, mutual support, and to encourage collaborative ministry efforts.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

In recent years, the number of youth and young adult ministries and groups in the diocese has increased, although the number of qualified coordinators of these essential ministries has declined. This is especially true within the Hispanic community where many groups and ministries are being



formed. Few leaders in these groups have advanced level training. There are no parish staff positions serving Hispanic youth. Our programs are being coordinated by 30 full or part-time employed youth ministry coordinators and many enthusiastic volunteers. Many DREs have youth ministry as part of their job responsibilities. Although passionate for what they do, few of our youth ministry leaders have been adequately trained for this ministry. Only a few have any advanced or Masters level training.

Vision

Strong lay leadership and religious vocations have their roots in effective and engaging youth and young adult ministry programs. We will significantly expand our programming and outreach to youth and young adults in our parishes, movements and Newman Centers.

Youth Ministry

We will increase the quality and scope of youth ministry programming by ensuring that every youth ministry and group in the diocese is being coordinated by a qualified youth ministry coordinator at the parish, cluster, deanery or regional levels.

Over the next five years, we will certify 150 people in basic level and 30 in advanced level training in youth ministry and, in collaboration with parish pastors, develop 20 new youth ministry positions, at least 10 of which will be bilingual.



opportunities at the parish, deanery and diocesan level for evangelization, catechesis and vocational discernment.

Young Adult Ministry

We will expand participation of young adults (in their 20s and 30s) in all aspects of parish life and encourage them to consider leadership in the Church. We will accomplish this by training all parish staffs in the diocese in the basics of young adult ministry.

We will expand the scope and reach of the Newman Centers to include community colleges with targeted outreach to young adults in African-American, Hispanic and Asian communities. We will increase

Action Steps

- Expand opportunities at the parish, deanery, regional and diocesan level to convene youth and young adults for retreats, small faith communities, Theology on Tap ©, conferences, rallies, discernment groups, as well as praise and worship concerts.
- Work closely with existing youth ministry leaders to encourage them to pursue advanced level training in Youth & Young Adult Ministry.
- Work with pastors to create incentives for youth ministry leaders to participate in ongoing formation opportunities.
- Encourage at the cluster and deanery levels the development of support groups for youth & young adult ministry leaders to foster ongoing training, mutual support, and collaborative ministry efforts.
- Assess the current youth ministry efforts and identify regions where resources are needed.
- Work closely with pastors to develop full and part-time paid positions.
- Hire three full-time regional young adult coordinators to coordinate young adult ministry efforts
- Provide training for all parish staffs in the basics of effective young adult ministry.
- Revitalize the work of the three Newman Centers so that they are clearly focused on the resident and commuter students at the three State University campuses. They should provide an environment where young people can experience the Lord Jesus, develop an adult faith life, experience supportive fellowship, and discern their Christian calling.
- Foster in the three Newman Centers more effective outreach to serve Hispanic, Black and Asian Catholics.
- Expand the scope of the programming at the three Newman Centers to reach the students at community colleges.
- Commit the financial and priestly resources to allow for the development and growth of the Newman Centers within the Diocese of Sacramento.

- Develop, in collaboration with the Vocations Office, more integration of vocations promotion and discernment into all diocesan youth and young adult ministry efforts, including the Newman Centers.
- Develop vocational awareness teams that can be available to our parishes and schools to help promote vocations to the priesthood, religious life, marriage, permanent diaconate, and lay ecclesial ministry.

Vocations

Currently, there are 111 diocesan priests serving in active ministry in the diocese, of whom, 33 can retire within 5 years. There are currently 18 seminarians who are within 5 years of ordination, 6 of whom were born in the United States. The average age of diocesan priests in the Diocese of Sacramento is 51.

The diocese will need to ordain an average of 7 seminarians a year in order to maintain a sufficient number of priests for parish assignments. In order to achieve that goal, it is necessary to recruit at least 10 candidates on a yearly basis.

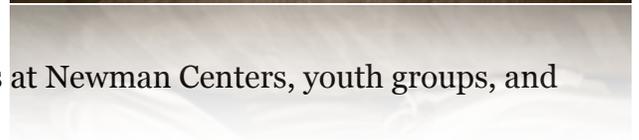
While families are where the seeds of a vocation are planted, it is within youth groups, Newman Centers and young adult groups that those seeds mature and develop. These groups nurture and develop the leadership of the Church.

Vision

The Diocese of Sacramento will make a concerted effort to minister to youth and young adults in the parishes, colleges and universities, developing a stronger vocational presence in these groups.

Action Steps

- Identify a part-time director of seminary formation, whose role will be to mentor seminarians already in formation. This will enable the Vocation Director to focus upon vocational promotion, discernment, and cultivation in parishes, Newman Centers, colleges, and universities.
- The Vocation Director will work in close collaboration with the Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adults.
- Develop regional vocation teams to give talks at Newman Centers, youth groups, and young adult groups.
- Develop regional discernment groups that will meet on a monthly basis in Newman Centers and parishes.
- The Director of Vocations will increase his personal involvement at the Catholic high schools.



Communication

Communication between the Pastoral Center and the parishes and the accessibility of formation opportunities continues to be a challenge within the 42,597 square miles of our diocese. In the past 10 years, we have witnessed a dramatic increase in Catholics' usage of digital communication technologies (e.g., the Internet) as well as increased costs in printing and postage. To keep pace with this change, we transitioned in September, 2011 from a weekly newspaper to a bi-monthly issue of our diocesan *Catholic Herald* magazine. We eliminated *El Heraldo Católico* due to its limited reach and effectiveness. We transformed the front page of Diocese-Sacramento.org into a timely source for up-to-date news with digital subscription options. We aired thousands of TV ads, pointing viewers to CatholicsComeHome.org as well as a regional website at WelcomeHomeNorCal.com.



Vision

New Media and other communications technologies are an important tool to reach out to all God's people in the diocese, communicate with them effectively, and assist with their evangelization and formation. We will invest in resources that will greatly increase the reach and effectiveness of our communication and increase the participation in our formation programs at all levels. We will employ technology to ensure that formation opportunities remain readily accessible to everyone in our diocese. We will employ social networking tools to reach out to others in Internet communities.

Action Steps

- Create and implement a unified system used by all entities of the diocese that allows parishes and the diocese to efficiently and effectively communicate via email, text messaging, social media, etc. with all Sacramento Catholics and those interested in our community.
- Create a database that allows the Diocese and parishes to share contact information on key personnel that seamlessly integrates with the unified communication system and the Diocesan website.
- Redevelop and redesign our diocesan website with recent technology, including, but not limited to: better accessibility, search, and navigation features; content in Spanish; centralized online calendar of Catholic events; news blog functionality; mobile version; incorporation of social media technology; push subscription options for news and events by email and text message.
- Create Android, iPhone and iPad applications to seamlessly integrate with the diocesan website.

- Sponsor the custom redesign and redevelopment of 50 parish websites, including hosting costs for 1 year. These websites will be built upon a quality Content Management System, allowing parish representatives to consistently update/manage the content with ease.
- Implement a high-quality HD videoconferencing system with an initial minimum of 3 remote locations in addition to a central hub situated in the Pastoral Center.
- Use the videoconferencing system to offer Degree and Certificate Programs in collaboration with Catholic Universities.
- Launch a Spanish-speaking AM radio station to deliver Catholic programs over the airwaves to the Hispanic population.
- Expand our presence on Immaculate Heart radio to broadcast shows that help catechize parents and families, increase lay involvement in church ministry and ministry in the workplace, encourage young people in their faith and guide their vocational discernment, and promote unity in diversity in our diocese.

Sacramentum Caritatis Initiative

The current economic crisis is putting a strain on many families. The U.S. Census reports that in 2010 California's poverty rate rose to 16.3%, its highest level in more than a decade. In the same period, household incomes plunged by 5%. The growing number of those who are poor accentuates the declining regard for the dignity of the human person and a diluted sense of social commitment. Both parish-based ministries and Catholic charitable agencies also strain under increasing requests for assistance and dwindling resources that cannot keep pace with the growing needs of at-risk families.



Under the mission of working to reduce poverty, the network of Catholic Charities and other charitable organizations in Northern California funded, in part, by the Annual Catholic Appeal served over 60,000 people in 2010. This network provides a broad array of vital services including mental health services, emergency food, shelter and clothing assistance, housing for vulnerable populations, senior services, services for at-risk youth, and assistance with citizenship services.

In these challenging times, we must continue to draw our hope and our strength from the Eucharist, which is the *Sacramentum Caritatis*, the Sacrament of Charity.

Vision

As Catholics, the communion we celebrate in the Sunday Eucharist commits us to concrete actions of charitable work, solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world, engagement in advocacy on behalf of those who have no voice, and development of leaders who can mobilize themselves toward a better life. The foundation of this vision is the inherent dignity and sacredness of each person, from conception to natural death. Each person is

created in the image and likeness of God and invited to be a co-worker with Christ in building up the Kingdom.

Action Steps

- Continue to develop the potential of the Annual Catholic Appeal to support the growth in the capacity to serve as well as expand the range of services needed by at-risk families in our communities.
- Use the statewide Catholic Legislative Network, sponsored by the California Catholic Conference, to engage Catholics in advocating for effective and sound public policy that supports the common good, human dignity and the caring for the most vulnerable in California society.
 - The Office of Family Life will use the Catholic Legislative Network to develop an effective network of Catholics who advocate for the dignity of human life, especially the protection of unborn children and more respectful, life-giving alternatives to abortion. This network will also advocate for public policy that promotes the dignity of life for the infirm and elderly as well as promote the traditional definition of marriage.
 - The Diaconate Community will coordinate the development of the Catholic Legislative Network in each deanery to promote the engagement of Catholics with State and local legislators as well as other public officials so that the Catholic voice can be heard on issues of importance in the communities of Northern California.



Resource Development

The Catholic Foundation
of the DIOCESE of SACRAMENTO, INC.



The Diocese of Sacramento enjoys a well-organized financial structure that ensures transparent accountability of the resources applied to further the many temporal and spiritual works of the Church, from parishes and schools to charities, seminary formation, and cemeteries. Much of the current financial structure is due to the wise foresight of Bishop William Weigand. He exercised prudent stewardship of the resources of God's people so that the Gospel ministry of the Church can continue for generations to come. The generous gifts of the Catholic faithful are respectfully administered, mindful of the sacrifices with which these gifts have been offered. Among the wise innovations initiated by Bishop Weigand was the establishment of The Catholic Foundation.

The Foundation serves as a vital vehicle for preserving and managing the legacy of the Catholic community so that the work of sanctification, education, and service can continue. At present, the Foundation holds approximately \$62,000,000 in assets. These assets are dedicated endowments supporting a variety of pastoral endeavors. The Board of Directors has been re-organized in recent years so that the organization can better meet the challenge of providing the essential resources to further the work of Christ in the Sacramento Valley.

As we look to implement this pastoral plan, an essential element will be the expansion and enhancement of the Foundation's assets so that it can support the pastoral goals of Catholic Education, Lay Formation, Youth Ministry, Vocations, Charities, as well as other worthwhile pastoral endeavors.

Vision

The Catholic Foundation will serve as a dynamic catalyst for bringing together the essential financial resources to build and sustain, for the present and future generations, the Catholic Church's work in catholic education, lay formation, youth and young adult ministry, vocations, and charity.

Action Steps

- The Office of Stewardship and Development will continue to promote and develop the practice of stewardship as part of faithful Christian discipleship.
- The Office of Stewardship and Development, together with the Office of Social Ministries, will continue to grow the potential of the Annual Catholic Appeal to support the growth and expansion of services needed by at-risk families in our communities.
- The Catholic Foundation will promote the availability of planned giving instruments and other opportunities for supporting the works of the Foundation.
- The Catholic Foundation will work with Bishop Soto to conduct a Diocesan Capital Campaign in 2013. The Campaign will primarily strengthen the existing endowments and establish new endowments for the supporting of Catholic education and youth & young adult ministry. It will also support other initiatives proposed in this pastoral plan.



Catholic Revival

Both the Blessed John Paul II and Pope Benedict have emphasized the abiding restlessness that should animate the Catholic faithful to evangelize the world. They were echoing the same conviction of Pope Paul VI, who said in his apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, “Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection.” (#14)

All the works of the Church, in one way or another, further this evangelizing mission. At the beginning of every Lenten Season, the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament has brimmed over with the large number of children, young people, and adults who seek to join the Church through the RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation). Every charitable work performed by Catholics is charged with an evangelizing character. As the Holy Father told us in his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, “A Christian knows when it is time to speak of God and when it is better to say nothing and to let love alone speak” (#31). These, as well as many other moments in the life of the Church, announce the good news that brings hope and joy to the human heart.

While Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever, the Church needs to constantly renew the commitment to bring Christ to a weary, worn world. In this spirit, Blessed John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have encouraged us to begin a New Evangelization. The Church in Sacramento has a history of pioneering the Gospel in what was then the virgin territory of Northern California. Religious and priests accompanied the Spanish, the Irish, the Italians, the Portuguese and many others as they forged centers of industry, agriculture, and commerce throughout the Valley and the surrounding mountains. Much has changed since then. Local economies have evolved. Populations have shifted. Cultural and political attitudes have grown indifferent and even hostile to religious faith. This pastoral plan hopes to equip us to better evangelize the people and communities of Northern California.

We also need to reignite our souls for this mission so that as St. Paul often encouraged the early Christian communities of the Mediterranean, “*Let us not grow tired of doing good*” (Gal 6:9).

With these words in mind, in 2014 the Diocese of Sacramento will begin a missionary revival to revitalize the parishes, especially those in the rural and mountain regions.

Conclusion

What is presented here has drawn from the rich work accomplished in the 2004 Diocesan Synod. Many of these pastoral priorities were articulated then. During many listening sessions conducted to prepare for this plan, those same priorities were raised again by the Catholic community. This plan will not address all the needs. It does attempt to address what are the more urgent needs. I hope that this plan also identifies some of the new opportunities we have to work together for the Kingdom of God.

During the recent World Youth Day, held in Madrid, the Holy Father addressed the young people with these words as 1.4 million youth prepared for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: “Dear friends, may no adversity paralyze you. Be afraid neither of the world, nor of the future, nor of your weakness. The Lord has allowed you to live in this moment of history so that, by your faith, His name will continue to resound throughout the world.” As we embark on this bold journey of Faith, let us not be afraid. As a people dedicated to the honor of *Santísimo Sacramento*, the Blessed Sacrament, may we make every effort to be the *Sacramentum Caritatis*, the Sacrament of God’s love in this broad and brimming Valley of Sacramento.

