



Renew & Reconnect in Person

Parish Resources



Prayer

God our Father, in your loving providence you have brought us into being to find joy in communion with one another and to know you in our joy.

We give you praise and thanks for this communion we share as members of the Body of Christ, your Son. We give thanks for each member of the Body particularly in our own parish communities, for friend and stranger, for the lucky and the unlucky, for the ones on the fringes and for those near the center.

Fill us, we pray, with the Spirit of your Son. Give us confidence as you call us to build up the Body of Christ. Help us to see in our everyday lives the moments and opportunities for caring and confirming and reconciling. Bless us with the patience to overcome frustration and with hope as we journey together.

We ask this with confidence in the love you have shown us through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Introduction

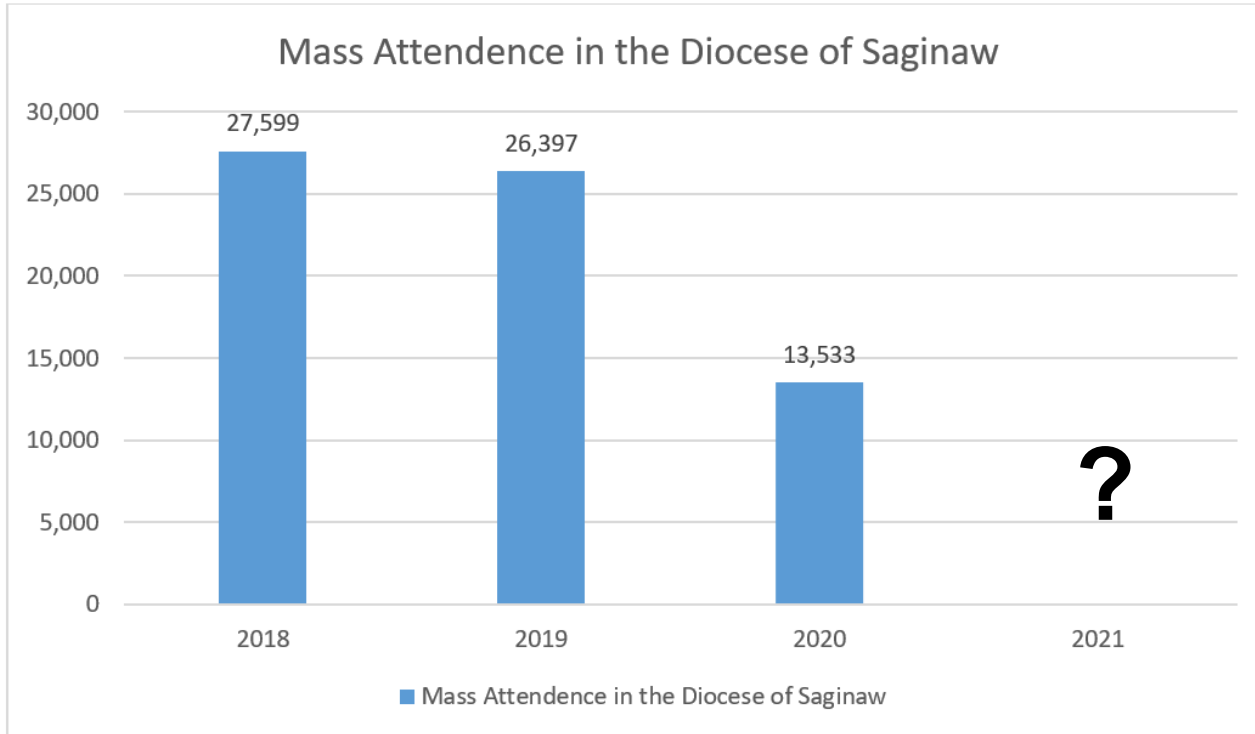


Parish Life During the year of COVID-19

A year of

- Disruptions
 - Loss
 - Social Isolation

Re-engaging from Digital to In Person Attendance



We understand that you have been attentive to the needs of your parishioners throughout this difficult time, so please use only what is helpful in the materials that follow.

Points to Consider

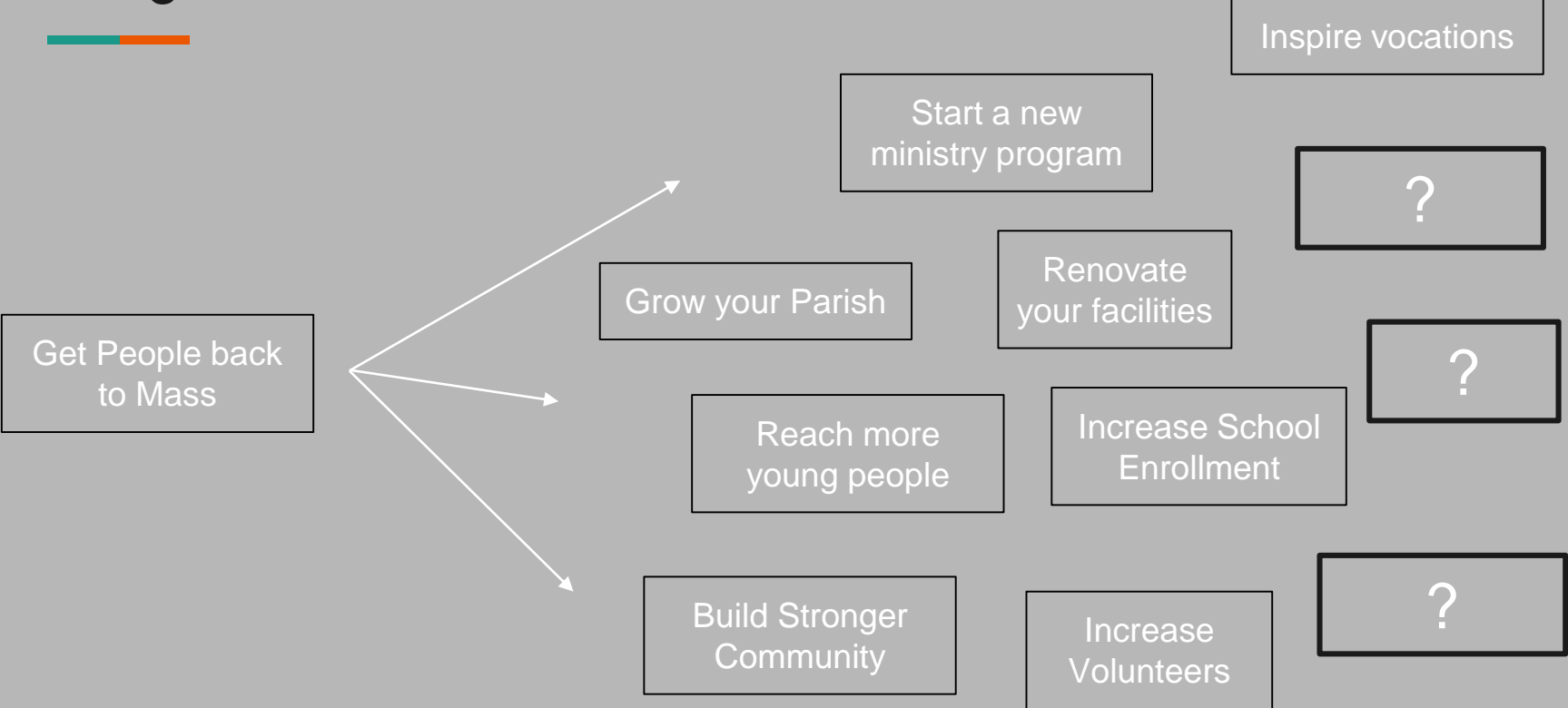


- People won't all just come back on their own. Frequent, reassuring invitations are necessary
- Take time to prayerfully & intentionally plan, building on the good from the past year.
- Recognize and communicate that plans are fluid & flexible.

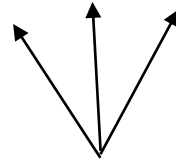
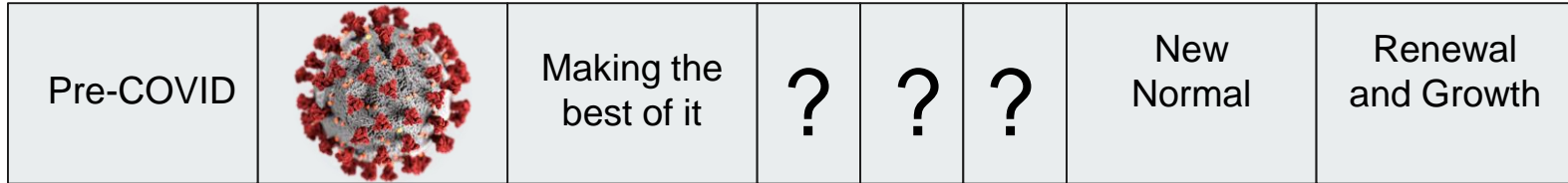
It's okay to make adjustments as we go



Setting the Foundation for Parish Renewal Post-COVID

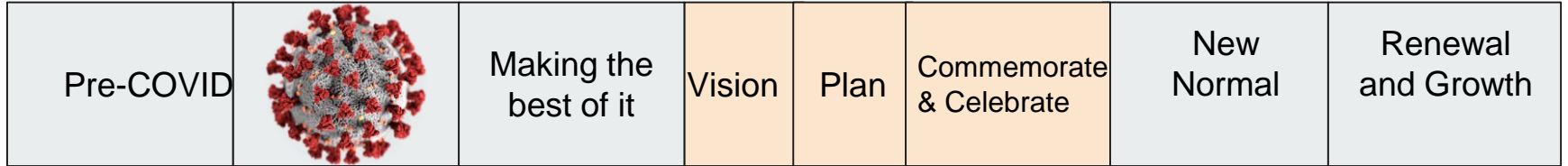


BIG PICTURE TIMELINE



What we will talk about

BIG PICTURE TIMELINE



Critical Communications between you and your parishioners



- Touching base asking how people are doing? (e.g., phone calls)
 - What are the concerns about returning to Mass?
 - What “loss” have you experienced? (e.g., death of a loved one, not attending a funeral, delayed sacraments, lost a job, new physical impairments)
- All communications (homilies, letters, phone calls, bulletins, etc.) need to welcome parishioners back to Mass and parish activities in person
- “Sneak Peek” letter, Remembrance letter, Parish Update letter, State of the Parish letter

Develop a Multiphase Plan

PARISH RENEW AND RECONNECT IN PERSON

Sample Parish Timeline

Always follow COVID protocols in place	PARISH MINISTRIES	COMMUNICATION FOCUS	KEY ACTIVITY/ EVENTS
Phase 1 COVID Restrictions are still in place	Continue live streaming Masses, continue pandemic protocols as directed by your diocese & local health officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year in review (possibly Pastor state of the parish letter aka messy letter), sneak peek at Renew and Reconnect in Person & post-COVID, Stewardship renewal message asking people to think about how gifts are being used. Lay testimonial message focusing on stewardship 	<p>Pastor and staff begin thinking about Renew and Reconnect in Person, a main celebration event.</p> <p>EVENT: Identify a meaningful time frame to serve as a grand celebration e.g., Parish Saint's Feast Day)</p>
Phase 2 As vaccines are distributed, more people become comfortable going out into public	Contact parish ministry leaders to begin planning for reopening of the ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify volunteers and ask them to reach out and welcome other parishioners to help Pastor handwritten notes to top supporters and volunteers, not forgetting those who have stepped forward during COVID Introduce the Renew and Reconnect in Person plan, timeline & key activities flyer to parish Phone calls to every household to connect with and invite personally to the Grand-opening, to see the video or other resources <p>IDEA: Video preparing parishioners for what Mass/activities may look like (e.g., no holy water or pews not separated)</p>	<p>Develop the parish's Renew and Reconnect in Person plan (A series of events/activities to help parishioners celebrate, grieve, and reconnect with the parish community)</p> <p>EVENT: Ministry volunteer brainstorm on Renew and Reconnect in Person activities (e.g., candles for deceased, remembrance wall, book club, outdoor movie night, walking rosary, nature walk, household packets for pickup, etc.)</p> <p>EVENTS IDEAS: Parish clean-up, campus maintenance, flower planting, cleanup of parish cemetery for memorial day</p>
Phase 3 More comfortable than Phase 2	Various Ministries Resume In Person	<p>We're back</p> <p>EVENTS IDEAS: time capsule item or remembrance activity item drop-off</p>	<p>Grand re-opening MAIN EVENT</p> <p>EVENTS of Community: Hosting events of celebration such as or combining a children's fair, scavenger hunt, outdoor movie night, turning on holy water font, procession with monstrance Blessed Sacrament, Blessing of the Harvesters/Harvest</p> <p>EVENTS of Celebration: Parents night out, senior brunch, parish day of service, Trivia night, parish leadership & volunteer dinner</p> <p>EVENTS of Remembrance: Time capsule ceremony, bless a new statue, painting or memorial wall, lighting a candle to remember deceased, Speaker about grief, Night of reflection with adoration,</p>
		<p>Mid-way update on the Renew and Reconnect, upcoming activities</p> <p>EVENTS IDEAS: Follow-up about the time capsule or remembrance memorial</p>	
Phase 4	Continue with regular parish liturgical events and ministries	<p>Pastor state of the parish letter</p> <p>Stewardship renewal (<i>time, talent, treasure</i>)</p>	<p>EVENTS IDEAS: Bring a friend to Mass + Saturday night social</p> <p>EVENTS IDEAS: Reconciliation, Stewardship Activity fair, Gifts inventory</p>

Phase 1



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Phase 2

PARISH RENEW AND RECONNECT IN PERSON

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Phase 3

PARISH RENEW AND RECONNECT IN PERSON

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		Mid-way update on the Renew and Reconnect, upcoming activities EVENTS IDEAS: Follow-up about the time capsule or remembrance memorial	

With COVID, gradual return no big momentous “victory”

Create that moment for parishioners that moment that is unique to your parish



Phase 4



PARISH RENEW AND RECONNECT IN PERSON

Sample Parish Timeline

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Phase 4	Continue with regular parish liturgical events and ministries	Pastor state of the parish letter Stewardship renewal (<i>time, talent, treasure</i>)	EVENTS IDEAS: Bring a friend to Mass + Saturday night social
			EVENTS IDEAS: Reconciliation, Stewardship Activity fair, Gifts Inventory

The events AND prep/build-up should bring your community together



Participation Activities- Building Engagement (come to parish)

- Household Candles
- Gathering materials for Time Capsule of Household Experiences, Prayers
- Prepare household contributions to Remembrance Wall
- Decorate a tile for a Parish Mosaic
- Household Picture Digital Collage
- Seeds for a Parish Garden

Remembrance Events - Acknowledge & Process Loss

- Candles for the deceased
- Dedication ceremony for Time Capsule of Household Experiences, Prayers
- Dedicate Painting or Remembrance Wall
- Bless a New Statue
- Speaker about Grief
- Night of Reflection with Adoration

Big Celebrations Events Ideas





Additional Resources available

- DOS Sample Plan
- DOS Points to Consider - This lists the initial contacts for questions or help.
- Additional Resources list
- Calling for Prayers- Phone Script
- Stay tuned for:
 - Pastoral Letter- 2 templates
 - “Events in a box”

Thanks to Bishop Gruss, the cabinet, the diocesan staff, members of the Renew and Reconnect planning committee ... and YOU for helping us to make this better.

Please share any plans you may already have in place
and any comments or questions.

What else do you need?