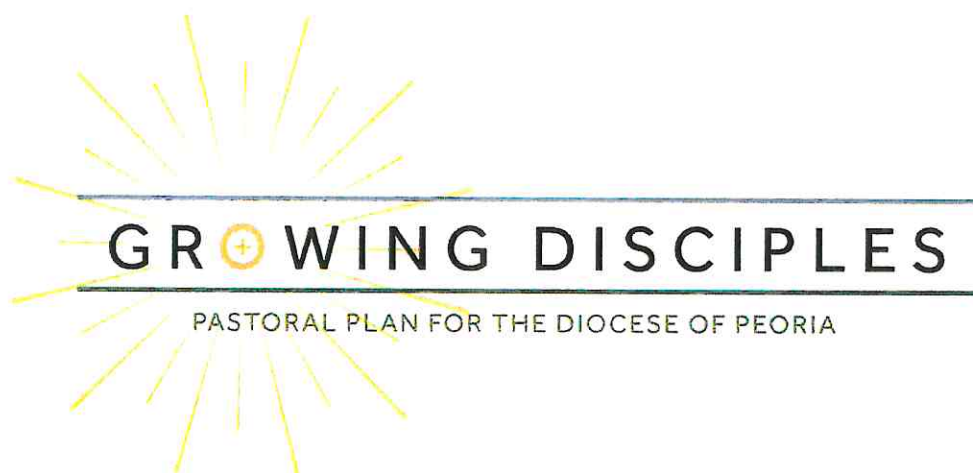




Bishop Lou Tylka has established five foundations on which to build the future of the Diocese of Peoria, to become an even more vibrant, mission-driven and sustainable Church. The five foundations are: empower evangelization, so as to share the saving name of Jesus, inspire discipleship in each baptized follower of Jesus, strengthen vocations to the priesthood and religious life, deepen our awareness of the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and continue the legacy of Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

Growing Disciples is designed to help Catholics build these foundations. It's a multiyear pastoral planning process for the Catholic Diocese of Peoria to renew discipleship and enhance relationships with Jesus Christ in every corner of our region. The Bishop will be examining the current structure of parishes in the diocese to evaluate how they can best meet the needs of the faithful and address challenges facing the Church today.

The first round of draft parish models for parish planning areas was designed to gather feedback about which communities it made sense to bring together under one pastor. The Bishop has received feedback from pastors, priests, the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Commission, which includes lay leaders from each vicariate, Key Parish Leaders and other diocesan leaders.

Based on the feedback, and after review of the parish sacramental trends, building conditions, finances and other parish data from every parish in the Diocese, the Growing Disciples Core Team, made up of parish priests, the Director of Vocations, the Chief of Mission, the Director of Information Management and members of the Catholic Leadership Institute, has refined the first set of draft parish models to create a second set of draft models, which will be shared with pastors, priests, deacons, Key Parish Leaders and the lay faithful for their feedback.

Priests have provided their feedback for the proposed second draft models through a series of focus groups. Parishes will now host meetings to present the second draft models and gather feedback from parishioners throughout the month of October. This feedback is important and will aid the Bishop in making a well-informed decision for the spiritual well-being of the diocese, looking at the input of the people and the needs of the diocese. The Bishop's decision will be made public by Pentecost (May 2024).

Please check out cdop.org/pastoral-plan for more information, and please continue to pray that all our efforts today will bear fruit for a brighter tomorrow.