

St Vincent De Paul Parish Pastoral Plan 2013-2017



Building a welcoming community for everyone!

Why did we do this?

- ▶ To develop a long-term pastoral plan to inform and guide the parish as to the steps it needs to take over the next 5-10 years
- ▶ To identify what needs to be put in place to further the spiritual, communal and material needs of the parish, recognizing there are unique requirements within the various groupings within the parish

Pastoral Planning Team Members

- ▶ Claudio Romano Parishioner
- ▶ Catherine Cook Parishioner
- ▶ Brendan Moloney Parishioner
- ▶ John Grant School Principal
- ▶ Peter Whiting Planning Consultant
- ▶ Fr Peter Ray Parish Priest
- ▶ Kevin McCartney Parishioner / Chairperson

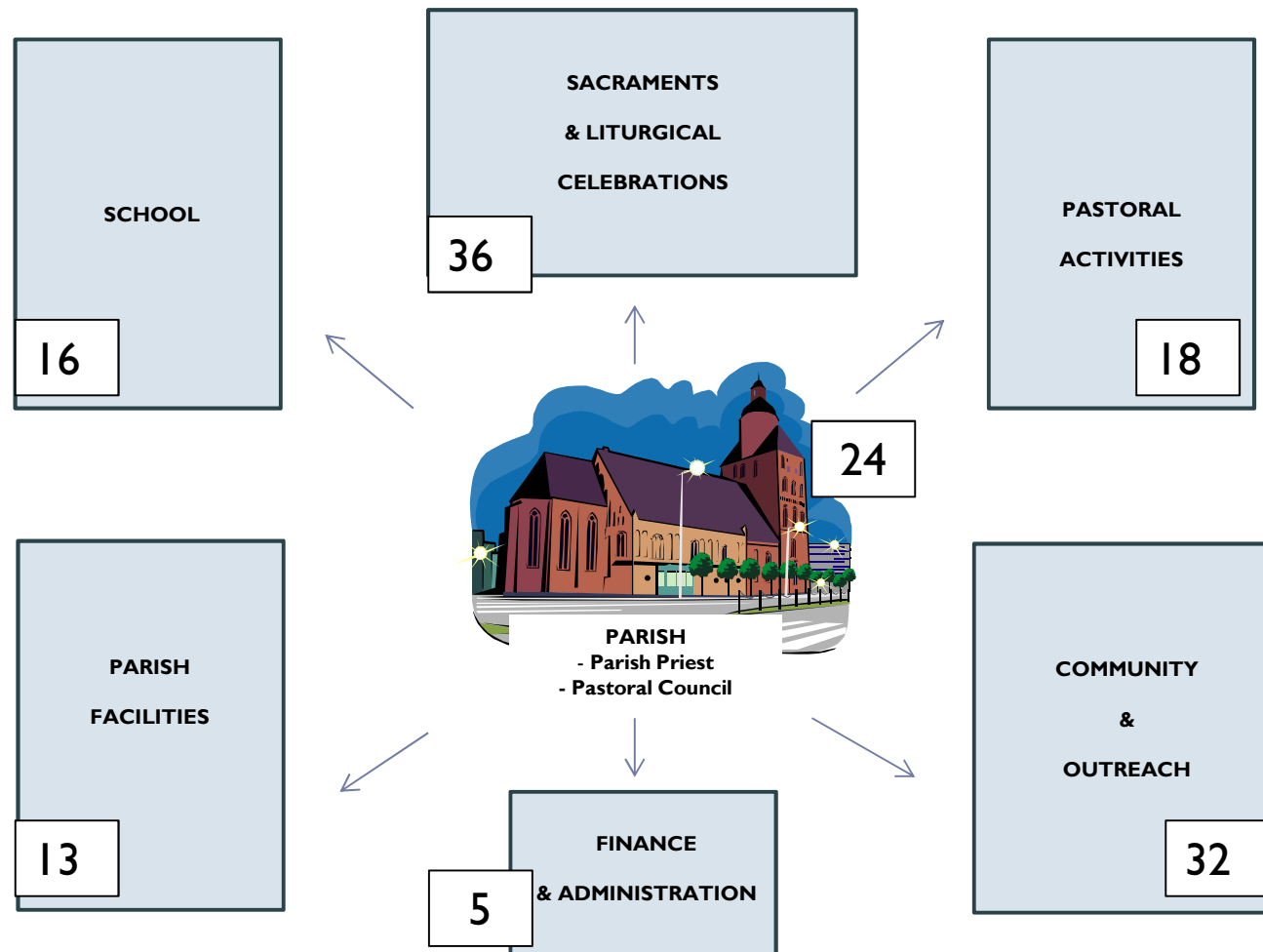
Who participated in the planning process?

- ▶ A number of open focus groups were conducted across the parish to identify what parishioners held to be important in the life of the Parish
- ▶ Several methods were used to encourage parishioners to participate in the focus groups including:
 - ▶ An open invitation at the Sunday Masses (4 meetings were convened)
 - ▶ An invitation to school parents (2 meetings were convened)
 - ▶ A written invitation to recent Baptismal parents (1 meeting convened)
 - ▶ Personal invitation to nominated young adults (equivalent of 1 meeting convened but spread over two nights)
- ▶ Each group tended to be composed of 7-8 parishioners
- ▶ Meetings were held over a 5-6 month period and approximately 60 people participated to share their views.

What was discussed at the meetings?

- ▶ Meetings were conducted in an informal manner with the primary objective of 'listening' to what people had to say
- ▶ Several open questions were posed for discussion to provide some structure to the conversation -
 - ▶ What works well in the parish now?
 - ▶ What might we do better?
 - ▶ What are we not doing that we should?
- ▶ All responses were accepted as 'legitimate' and the main views expressed were captured and displayed throughout the meeting
- ▶ As a closing step, participants were asked to put three (or more) ideas each on sticky labels, and to then place them on the most appropriate element of the parish schema (shown overleaf)

What was discussed at the meetings?



What do people think we do well ...

- ▶ Great pride in the achievements of the school by both parents of current students (a younger cohort) as well as by those who no longer had children attending the school
 - ▶ Academic focus
 - ▶ Faith formation (sometimes referred to in terms of values inculcated)
 - ▶ Community spirit within the school
 - ▶ Response to needy identified within the school community
- ▶ Preparation (of children and families) for the sacraments especially Baptism and first Eucharist was seen as inclusive and meaningful
- ▶ There was a sense that groups like children's playgroup, carpet bowls for the elderly, communion to the sick, home visitation and support of the grieving and needy were reflective of a genuine concern for others within the parish
- ▶ A number of parishioners spoke of finding the parish open and welcoming and of the ease with which they got to know others through either the school or activities like the baptismal program

What do people think we could do better ...

- ▶ There was clear recognition of the central role of the Parish Priest in the leadership of the parish but a range of related issues were raised –
 - ▶ Who is the “leadership group”, how is it constituted, what are its priorities?
 - ▶ Communications of what is going on in the parish is inadequate – no clear understanding of priorities or direction
 - ▶ There is a need to better support the P.P. whether this be by some paid assistants (e.g. pastoral associate, youth worker) or by more engagement of laity of the parish.
- ▶ Despite the success of the school, it was seen to lack a close linkage to the life of the parish
- ▶ The celebration of Sunday worship attracted diverse views but some general themes were -
 - ▶ A need to more effectively draw adult parishioners into the ministries (reader, special minister etc.)
 - ▶ The need to re-energise the interest of children and their parents in children participating as Mass servers
 - ▶ The need to provide a more contemporary Mass which was more inclusive of children and youth in particular.
- ▶ Need to build a stronger sense of community in the Strathmore parish

What are we not doing that we should ...

- ▶ Question seemed difficult to respond to, perhaps as it essentially required a view of parish life different from that being experienced today
- ▶ Responses tended to reflect earlier comments covered under 'areas where we could do better'
- ▶ One theme which emerged at most meetings –
 - ▶ As a relatively wealthy parish, we should be undertaking some focused outreach / social justice initiatives, however no strongly emergent local needs were identified (e.g. marginalized groups, substance abuse or the like)

Four key themes emerged as the basis for development of our Pastoral Plan

- ▶ Develop a greater lay involvement in parish leadership
- ▶ Build a greater sense of parish community
- ▶ Engage and retain our youth and young adults
- ▶ Show our parish commitment to the example of St Vincent de Paul and build up our support for those in need

Theme 1 - Develop a greater lay involvement in parish leadership

- ▶ Key areas of focus –
 - ▶ Revitalise the participation of parishioners in parish life
 - ▶ Develop and promulgate a clear leadership model for the parish community
 - ▶ Provide greater support to lay leaders in their parish ministries

- ▶ Key outcomes for the parish -
 - ▶ More of our parishioners involved in parish ministries
 - ▶ Parishioners clear on their roles and responsibilities
 - ▶ Leaders supported and developed in their roles
 - ▶ Improved awareness of parish structures and key contact people
 - ▶ Improved awareness of the role and achievements of parish ministries

Theme 2 - Build a greater sense of parish community

- ▶ Key areas of focus –
 - ▶ Build a strong and inclusive sense of parish community.
 - ▶ Recognise the differing needs of groups within the parish
 - ▶ Welcome new parishioners into the parish, and welcome back those who have been absent
- ▶ Key outcomes for the parish -
 - ▶ More of our parishioners involved in parish ministries
 - ▶ Parishioners clear on their roles and responsibilities
 - ▶ Leaders supported and developed in their roles
 - ▶ Improved awareness of parish structures and key contact people

Theme 3 - Engage and retain our youth and young adults

- ▶ Key areas of focus –
 - ▶ Build a strong involvement of our primary school age children in our liturgies
 - ▶ Encourage our secondary school age youth to remain part of the parish community
 - ▶ Motivate and engage our young adults to be part of parish life
- ▶ Key outcomes for the parish -
 - ▶ More of our children and their families present and participating at our parish liturgical celebrations and parish activities
 - ▶ Young people active, visible and appreciated in our parish life

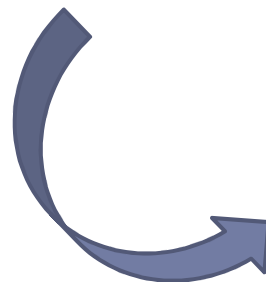
Theme 4 - Show our parish commitment to the example of St Vincent de Paul and build up our support for those in need

- ▶ Key areas of focus –
 - ▶ Demonstrate a parish commitment to the gospel call to aid those in need
 - ▶ Grow in community through the act of sharing our resources
- ▶ Key outcomes for the parish -
 - ▶ A genuine joy in “sharing” within our parish community
 - ▶ Bringing benefit to those people and causes we support

A 'top-down' approach was used to break these themes into 'initiatives' and then 'initiatives' into potential 'activities'



- ▶ Develop a greater lay involvement in parish leadership
- ▶ Build a greater sense of parish community
- ▶ Engage and retain our youth and young adults
- ▶ Show our parish commitment to the example of St Vincent de Paul



Develop a greater lay involvement in parish leadership

- Specialist Support Groups / Programs

Build a greater sense of parish community

- Specialist Support Groups / Programs
- Centres
- Communications
- Shared purpose / endeavour – groups

Engage and retain our youth and young adults

- Targeted Youth / Young Adult groups
- Youth Movements / Groups
- Activities
- Special Interest Presentation Series

Show our parish commitment to the example of St Vincent De Paul

- Social Justice
- Spiritual

A large list of pastoral activities was identified for possible inclusion in the plan

Develop a greater lay involvement in parish leadership

Leadership Model

- Visioning
- Assisting Parish Priest in Decision making
- Supporting groups
- Listening to parish

Show commitment to the example of St Vincent De Paul

Social Justice

- Scope for this approach to be extended to include school families and other parishioners to build a COMMUNITY
- Columbans projects / 3rd world projects
- Extend programmes in secondary schools / post-school involvement

Spiritual

- Continue / build on class Masses
- Dedicated youth Masses
- Open sacramental preparation nights to all parishioners

A large list of pastoral activities was identified for possible inclusion in the plan

Build a greater sense of parish community

Specialist Support Groups / Programs

- Liturgy Preparation (Celebration Of Faith Program)
- Social Committee
- Young / youth
- Sacramental Preparation
- Community garden
- Men's shed
- Welcome group
- Farmer's market
- Aged Support - Outreach
- Aged Support - School
- Adult faith development
- Play group
- Coming Home' program
- Excursions
- Scripture Studies
- Arts / craft / music
- Working bees
- Travel
- Exercise groups

A large list of pastoral activities was identified for possible inclusion in the plan

Build a greater sense of parish community (cont'd)

Centres

- Drop-in
- Parish Resource
- Church

Communications

- Parish Website
- Reinforce our oral communications
- Expand opportunities (e.g include school bulletin at church for interested parishoners)

Shared purpose / endeavour – groups

- Spiritual
- Social
- Family
- Social Justice

A large list of pastoral activities was identified for possible inclusion in the plan

Engage and retain our youth and young adults

Targeted Youth / Young Adult groups

- Primary (to Yr 5)
- Secondary (Yr 6 to Yr 10)
- Young adults (Yr 11 to age 25)

Youth Movements / Groups

- Antioch
- YCW
- Edmund Rice
- Young Marists

Activities

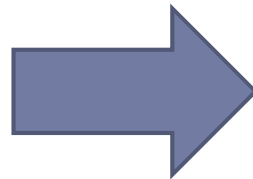
- Youth Club – Parent leaders with youth from Yr 6 to Yr 8.
- Special interest groups – examples: music; social
- Key events for older youth, for example WYD, with group self organising and parish supported

Special Interest Presentation Series

- Use of IT technology
- Driver education
- Body image
- University options
- Career insights / briefings
- Anger management
- Bullying (also cyber)
- Risky behaviour
- Social networking
- Job interview preparation

Like activities were grouped together and distilled into eight key programs for SVDP pastoral plan

Establish Parish Council Management Team
Establish Priority Sub-Committees For Key Initiatives
Celebration Of Faith Program
Select Priority Areas of Focus
Implement Programs To Identify Opportunities
Develop Plans To Enhance Community Celebrations
Building Community Program
Develop Annual Social Program For Community
Organise and Promote Community Events
Discovering Our Youth Program
Engage and Understand Our Youth
Select Priority Areas of Focus
Implement Relevant Support Programs For Our Youth
Senior Citizens Program
Select Priority Areas of Focus
Identify Relevant Programs To Meet Needs
Implement Relevant Support Programs For Senior Citizens
Faith Development Program
Select Priority Areas of Focus
Develop Programs To Identify Opportunities
Implement Plans To Support Faith Development
Parish Communications & Resource Program
Identify Key Areas Of Opportunity
Identify Relevant Programs To Meet Needs
Implement Relevant Communications Facilities & Programs
Social Justice & Outreach Program
Select Priority Areas of Focus
Develop Programs To Identify Opportunities
Implement Plans To Support Justice Initiatives



- ▶ Establish Parish Council Management Team
- ▶ Celebration Of Faith Program
- ▶ Building Community Program
- ▶ Discovering Our Youth Program
- ▶ Senior Citizens Program
- ▶ Faith Development Program
- ▶ Parish Communications & Resource Program
- ▶ Social Justice & Outreach Program

Key activities were selected and prioritised within each program to ensure they were properly focused to form the pastoral plan

Pastoral planning themes

Key plan programs

Priority plan activities

Proposed Pastoral Initiative	Summary Of Related Activities	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Develop a greater lay involvement in parish leadership</i>	Establish Parish Community Leadership Team					
	Establish SVDP Parish Leadership Team					
	Establish Parish Community Worship Team					
	Establish Parish Community Social Team					
	Establish Parish Community Youth Team					
	Establish Parish Community Communications Team					
	Establish Parish Community Outreach Team					
	Establish Parish Community Seniors Team					
	Establish Parish Community Faith Development Team					
	Establish Parish Pastoral Support Team (e.g. Pastoral Assistant)					
<i>Build a greater sense of parish community</i>	Celebration Of Faith Program					
	Celebrating Our Mass Program					
	My First Holy Communion Program					
	Childrens Worship Program					
	Youth Worship Program					
Community Eucharist Program						
<i>Build a greater sense of parish community</i>	Building Community Program					
	Annual Parish Dinner Dance					
	Annual Parish Community Picnic					
	Parish Community Garden					
	Quarterly (Entertainment) Events Program					
	Community Activities & Exercise Program					
	Community Presentation Series					
<i>Engage and retain our youth and young adults</i>	Discovering Our Youth Program					
	Youth Consultation & Planning Program					
	Youth Support Presentation Series					
	Secondary School Support Program					
	Young Adult Encounter Program (e.g. Antioch)					
	Youth Club (Y.6 - Y.8)					
	Special Interest Groups (e.g. music, technology)					
<i>Build a greater sense of parish community</i>	Senior Citizens Program					
	Senior Citizens Presentation Series (e.g. health, technology)					
	Activities & Exercise Program					
	Senior Citizen Resource & Support Group					
	Senior Citizen Home Program					
<i>Build a greater sense of parish community</i>	Faith Development Program					
	Parish Encounter Program (Facilitated)					
	Married Couples Encounter Program (Facilitated)					
	Community Faith Development Program					
	Annual Community Retreat (Facilitated)					
<i>Build a greater sense of parish community</i>	Parish Communications & Resource Program					
	Establish SVDP Communication Strategy					
	Establish Parish Website					
	Integrate Parish & School Communications					
	Community Skills Register & Contact Database					
<i>Social Justice & Outreach Program</i>	Parish Partnership Program With Columbians					
	Community Outreach Team Program					
	Community Sponsored Immersion Program (Young Adults)					

Proposed timeline for activities

Overview of St Vincent De Paul Parish Pastoral Plan

The following pages provide an overview of the eight key programs and an outline of the priority activities in each program.

An indicative timeline has been included for each program but will depend on our ability to resource each of these activities.

Establish Parish Community Leadership Team Program

Proposed Pastoral Initiative	Summary Of Related Activities	2013	2014	2015
<i>Develop a greater lay involvement in parish leadership</i>	Establish Parish Community Leadership Team			
	Establish SVDP Parish Leadership Team			
	Establish Parish Community Worship Team			
	Establish Parish Community Social Team			
	Establish Parish Community Youth Team			
	Establish Parish Community Communications Team			
	Establish Parish Community Outreach Team			
	Establish Parish Community Seniors Team			
	Establish Parish Community Faith Development Team			
	Establish Parish Pastoral Support Team (e.g. Pastoral Assistant)			

Primary focus of this program is to establish a sustainable team within the parish to drive and support the various activities across all programs.

Celebration Of Faith Program

Proposed Pastoral Initiative	Summary Of Related Activities	2013	2014	2015
<i>Build a greater sense of parish community</i>	Celebration Of Faith Program			
	Celebrating Our Mass Program			
	My First Holy Communion Program			
	Childrens Worship Program			
	Youth Worship Program			
	Community Ecumenical Program			

Primary focus of this program is to identify opportunities to enhance our celebration of our faith, initially focusing on those celebrations which are a core part of our christian community life.

Building Community Program

Proposed Pastoral Initiative	Summary Of Related Activities	2013	2014	2015
<i>Build a greater sense of parish community</i>	Building Community Program			
	Annual Parish Dinner Dance			
	Annual Parish Community Picnic			
	Parish Community Garden			
	Quarterly (Entertainment) Events Program			
	Community Activities & Exercise Program			
	Community Presentation Series			

Primary focus of this program is to start to build a greater sense of community across the SVDP parish by creating some simple opportunities for people to come together and share their stories with each other.

Discovering Our Youth Program

Proposed Pastoral Initiative	Summary Of Related Activities	2013	2014	2015
<i>Engage and retain our youth and young adults</i>	Discovering Our Youth Program			
	Youth Consultation & Planning Program			
	Youth Support Presentation Series			
	Secondary School Support Program			
	Young Adult Encounter Program (e.g. Antioch)			
	Youth Club (Yr.6 - Yr.8)			
	Special Interest Groups (e.g. music, technology)			

Primary focus of this program is to identify some real and sustainable opportunities in our community to support and encourage our youth through their various stages of development.

Senior Citizens Program

Proposed Pastoral Initiative	Summary Of Related Activities	2013	2014	2015
<i>Build a greater sense of parish community</i>	Senior Citizens Program			
	Senior Citizens Presentation Series (e.g. health, technology)			
	Activities & Exercise Program			
	Senior Citizen Resource & Support Group			
	Senior Citizen Home Program			

Primary focus of this program is to encourage and support the older members of our community to continue to identify new ways to enrich their experience and enjoyment of life.

Faith Development Program

Proposed Pastoral Initiative	Summary Of Related Activities	2013	2014	2015
<i>Build a greater sense of parish community</i>	Faith Development Program			
	Parish Encounter Program (Facilitated)			
	Married Couples Encounter Program (Facilitated)			
	Community Faith Development Program			
	Annual Community Retreat (Facilitated)			

Primary focus of this program is to provide spiritually targeted programs to extend our understanding of our faith and provide opportunities for everyone to experience and grow their personal relationship with their God.

Parish Communications & Resource Program

Proposed Pastoral Initiative	Summary Of Related Activities	2013	2014	2015
<i>Build a greater sense of parish community</i>	Parish Communications & Resource Program			
	Establish SVDP Communication Strategy			
	Establish Parish Website			
	Integrate Parish & School Communications			
	Community Skills Register & Contact Database			

Primary focus of this program is to start to build some of the 'infrastructure' that will enable us to improve the way we communicate and engage with each other, starting with the basic capability to access and share information.

Social Justice & Outreach Program

Proposed Pastoral Initiative	Summary Of Related Activities	2013	2014	2015
<i>Show commitment to the example of St Vincent De Paul</i>	Social Justice & Outreach Program			
	Parish Partnership Program With Columbans			
	Community Outreach Team Program			
	Community Sponsored Immersion Program (Young Adults)			

Primary focus of this program is to provide some real opportunities for people to share themselves with those who need help in our community or other community in need, possibly by partnering with other established relief agencies.

How does this pastoral plan fit with people's expectations for the future community of St Vincent De Paul parish?

Proposed Pastoral Initiative	Summary Of Related Activities	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Develop a greater lay involvement in parish leadership	Establish Parish Community Leadership Team					
	Establish SVDP Parish Leadership Team					
	Establish Parish Community Worship Team					
	Establish Parish Community Social Team					
	Establish Parish Community Youth Team					
	Establish Parish Community Communications Team					
	Establish Parish Community Outreach Team					
	Establish Parish Community Seniors Team					
	Establish Parish Community Faith Development Team					
	Establish Parish Pastoral Support Team (e.g. Pastoral Assistant)					
Build a greater sense of parish community	Celebration Of Faith Program					
	Celebrating Our Mass Program					
	My First Holy Communion Program					
	Childrens Worship Program					
	Youth Worship Program					
	Community Eucharist Program					
Build a greater sense of parish community	Building Community Program					
	Annual Parish Dinner Dances					
	Annual Parish Community Picnic					
	Parish Community Gardens					
	Quarterly (Entertainment) Events Program					
	Community Activities & Exercise Program					
	Community Presentation Series					
	Community Presentation Series					
Engage and retain our youth and young adults	Discovering Our Youth Program					
	Youth Consultation & Planning Program					
	Youth Support Presentation Series					
	Secondary School Support Program					
	Young Adult Encounter Program (e.g. Antioch)					
	Youth Club (Y-6 - Y-8)					
	Special Interest Groups (e.g. music, technology)					
Build a greater sense of parish community	Senior Citizens Program					
	Senior Citizens Presentation Series (e.g. health, technology)					
	Activities & Exercise Program					
	Senior Citizens Resource & Support Group					
	Senior Citizens Home Program					
Faith Development Program	Faith Development Program					
	Parish Encounter Program (Facilitated)					
	Married Couples Encounter Program (Facilitated)					
	Community Faith Development Program					
	Annual Community Retreat (Facilitated)					
Build a greater sense of parish community	Parish Communications & Resource Program					
	Establish SVDP Communication Strategy					
	Establish Parish Website					
	Integrate Parish & School Communications					
	Community Skills Register & Contact Database					
Social Justice & Outreach Program	Social Justice & Outreach Program					
	Parish Partnership Program With Columbians					
	Community Outreach Team Program					
	Community Sponsored Immersion Program (Young Adults)					

- ▶ Does the pastoral plan address the key issues for the SVDP community?
- ▶ Do the proposed activities look sensible in terms of what is required?
- ▶ Are there other things that should be included in the plan?
- ▶ Are there items that you believe should be removed?
- ▶ Do the proposed timelines look right?
- ▶ Is this plan something you would be happy to support and be involved with?

Next steps in the planning process ...

- ▶ Pastoral Planning Team conduct parish workshops to review and confirm planning priorities (January / February 2013)
 - Review proposed action plans for parish
 - Review priorities and proposed timing of activities
 - Evaluate overall completeness and relevance of plan

- ▶ Pastoral Planning Team support establishment of SVDP Parish Leadership Team (February 2013)
 - Draft charter for new SVDP parish leadership team
 - Conduct process for nomination and appointment to SVDP leadership team
 - Brief incoming team on pastoral plan priorities and program scope