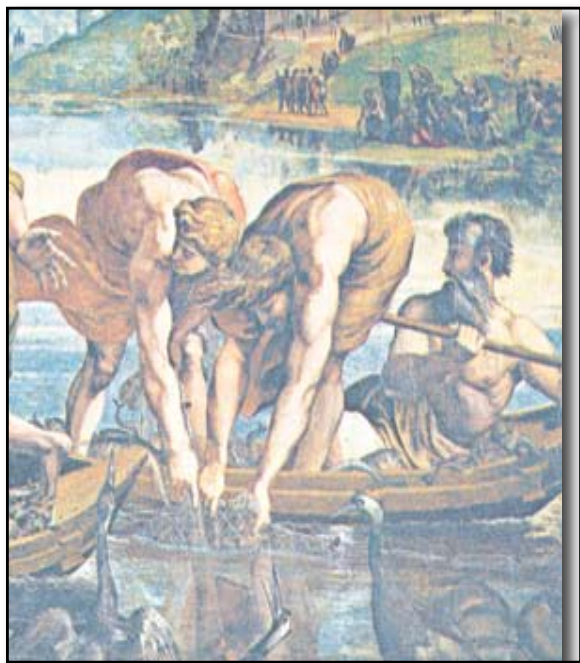




Pastoral Plan 2009 – 2014

As we prepare for the next Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Cheyenne, our goals will include:

- More of a consultative process
- More focus on communication Diocesan-wide
- Fewer goals and priorities, well-focused and affordable
- Linked to business, parish and development plans



“**N**ow is the time for each local Church to assess its fervor and find fresh enthusiasm for its spiritual and pastoral responsibilities, by reflecting on what the Spirit of God has been saying to the People of God in this special year of grace ... so that the Church may shine ever so brightly in the variety of her gifts and in unity, as she journeys on.”

Pope John Paul II
Novo Millennio Ineunte
The Coming of the New Millennium

Areas of Concentrated Focus

Marriage, Family, and Respect Life

Accomplishments:

Provide parish-based education on marriage, family life, chastity and Natural Family Planning based on John Paul II's Theology of the Body

- “Holiness in Marriage Retreat” presented based on Theology of the Body
- Natural Family Planning instructors in each deanery
- NFP teacher training to be held early spring 2008
- Pilot one-day content class on NFP for engaged couples (beginning January 2008)
- Introduction to adult education formats for study of Theology of the Body available for presentation in parishes
- Multiple resources purchased and catalog of resources prepared and distributed

Renew and unify preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage, assist in sustaining lasting marriages and healthy, holy family lives and minister to them in times of crisis

- “Pastoral Letter to the Engaged” and introductory DVD from Bishop Ricken was distributed to all priests, deacons, religious and parish leadership, and to U.S. bishops
- Adopted “God’s Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage” - new marriage preparation program
- Developed study guide for use with Bishop Ricken’s letter to the engaged, “Marriage for a Lifetime”
- “Covenant of Love,” - core marriage enrichment resource to be provided to all

parishes in 2008

• “Stewardship of Faith and Family” presentation during years of study on stewardship 2006-07

- Youth events held to promote healthy, holy families; Fall Conference, Veritas, Jr. High Thermopolis, Winter Rendezvous, SpringFest, Leadership Camp, Jr. High Camp, NET Retreats, World Youth Day

Create and identify effective networks and resources to support families in parenting and caring for family members in times of need

- Pastors helped to identify parish marriage family and respect life contacts
- Parenting program options available for parenting young children and parenting teens

Implement training options to ensure that all parish and diocesan ministries are sensitive to families and family needs

- 92 individuals in 23 parishes were trained on the basics of parish family ministry through a Diocesan-wide videoconference, “Ministry with our Families”

Take all steps necessary to ensure that the Church is a safe, welcoming, healing place for all, regardless of age or situation in life



- Rachel’s Vineyard, a post-abortion ministry retreat, established as an ongoing ministry
- All adult youth leaders receive background checks and safe environment training

Continued Priorities:

Expose materialism, individualism, racism, pornography, contraception, sterilization, abortion, and euthanasia as contrary to the truth proclaimed by the Gospel of Life

- “Life Lessons” sent to all parishes and placed on website in formats appropriate for the young child, the older child, teens, and adults
- Bishop Ricken’s “Weekend for Life” established
- Bishop’s Legislative Committee in place to advise on issues for official action on behalf of the Diocese
- Materialism and individualism discussed in keynote presentations at youth events

Community and Evangelization (In Development)

2008-09 is the Year of Study for Community and Evangelization.

... by fostering prayer, adult education, and devotionals, such as praying the rosary

Continued Priorities:

Provide practical assistance to help Catholics evangelize and establish effective outreach programs

Encourage dynamic, culturally diverse and welcoming liturgies

- Dynamic and engaging liturgies presented at Diocesan youth events

Foster and support small, faith-based communities

- Marriage, Family and Respect Life Ministry has kept a file on Families and Evangelization with particular focus toward bringing family members back to the Church for use when this Year of Study commences
- Youth events included small community faith sharing

Promote and nurture the family, as the most basic foun-

... Reach out to non-Catholics and inactive Catholics, including by personal invitation

