

TOGETHER IN FAITH: GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED TERMS

Archbishop – The chief shepherd of an archdiocese. In the Archdiocese of Detroit, Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron serves in this capacity, overseeing 270 parishes in the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, St. Clair and Lapeer.

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) – The primary lay – or non-clergy and non-religious – consultative group to the Archbishop of Detroit. Since its establishment in 1973, the APC has assisted the archbishop in planning and goal-setting for the archdiocese. In this role, the APC is instrumental in Together in Faith (TIF).

Auxiliary Bishop – Also known as “assistant bishops,” these bishops assist the Archbishop by overseeing designated regions or specific ministries of the archdiocese.

Catechesis – Also known as “faith formation” or “catechetics,” this is the field of religious education through which the doctrines and moral principles of the Catholic Church are taught.

Catechist – A person who teaches catechesis. The main catechist at each parish is known either as the Director of Religious Education (DRE) or Parish Catechetical Leader (PCL).

Central Services – The aspect of the Archdiocese of Detroit that connects and provides resources, programming and planning to the area’s parishes, schools and institutions. It includes the Archbishop’s office and provides services for education, religious education, finance, properties, parish services, communications, archives, canon law, and worship. In a sense it can be called the “headquarters” of the Archdiocese. The administrative offices are situated in downtown Detroit in the Chancery and Gabriel Richard Building.

Cluster – A cluster refers to two or more parishes that share a single pastor and oftentimes a single set of administrative resources and personnel (bookkeeper, grounds keeper, religious education teachers, etc.)

Closure – The closing of a parish. In canon/Church law parlance, a closure is referred to as a “suppression.” So if a parish is “suppressed,” that means it’s been closed.

Director of Religious Education (DRE) or Parish Catechetical Leader (PCL) – The person at a parish in charge of faith formation or catechesis.

Evangelization – The teaching or spreading of the Gospel message. Every Christian is given the responsibility by Christ to evangelize; the Archdiocese and many of its parishes have various formal plans, departments and committees dedicated to evangelization.

Facilitators – In the context of Together In Faith, these are people who give structure to the meetings of the parish Planning Groups. Facilitators are coordinated by the Archdiocese.

Lay Leadership – Parish leadership by those who are not ordained ministers. Lay people – sometimes called “the laity” – are heavily involved in the Together In Faith process, as parishes are represented in the process by lay leaders as opposed to priests.

Merger – Two parishes coming together to form a single parish. Oftentimes, when parishes merge, they take on a new name and begin as a new parish.

Parish – A community of Catholics served by a pastor, most commonly worshipping at a single church building. Technically, a parish refers to the Catholics residing within a specific geographical boundary, however Catholics may, and commonly do, cross geographical boundaries to become “parishioners” of the parish not nearest to their residence (e.g. , someone living in Livonia can still be a “parishioner” of a parish in the city of Detroit).

Parish Council – A group of people with whom a pastor consults concerning the policies, decision making and governance of a parish. Also can be called a “parish pastoral council.”

Parishioner – A member of a parish.

Pastoral Planning – The formulation of a plan to sustain and grow the local Catholic Church, focused on best using the personnel and resources at the Church’s disposal. Together In Faith is referred to as a pastoral planning process.

Planning Groups – A group of laypeople designated by the pastors of their respective parishes to lead the pastoral planning process. Together In Faith Phase Two involves 40 planning groups made up of parishes in geographic proximity.

Regions – For administrative purposes the Archdiocese of Detroit is divided into four separate regions, each reporting to a Regional Moderator who, in turn, reports to the Archbishop. The Archdiocese consists of the Central, Northeast, Northwest and South regions.

Regional Moderator – The cleric who oversees a particular region of the Archdiocese of Detroit on behalf of the Archbishop. The Regional Moderators in the Archdiocese are Auxiliary Bishop Michael Byrnes (Northeast Region), Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda (Northwest Region), Auxiliary Bishop Donald Hanchon (Central Region), and Auxiliary Bishop Francis Reiss (South Region).

Stewardship – Giving, typically through the church, based on the Christian understanding that all of creation belongs to God and people are merely stewards of all their resources – including time, talent, money, property, etc. – and not owners of them.

Strategic Planning – The process by which the Archdiocese defines its direction, based on its mission of sharing Christ, and establishes a means by which to best pursue its goals through the use of its current resources. See “pastoral planning.”

Together in Faith (TIF) -- A process through which parishes and Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese assess their ministries and resources in the context of their communities and in collaboration with their neighboring parishes and Catholic schools.

Together In Faith, Phase One (TIF I) – Implemented between 2004 and 2010, this was the first phase of a new pastoral planning process for the Archdiocese of Detroit. The outcome of the plan is published on the Archdiocese of Detroit website at www.aodonline.org/tif (click “Together In Faith Phase 1” on the right-hand side) and implementation of the plan in many cases is ongoing and being incorporated into Phase II.

Together In Faith, Phase Two (TIF II) – The current phase of the ongoing Together In Faith process, which began in January 2011.

Vicariate – A group of parishes within the archdiocese, defined by geographic area for the purposes of administration. Each the 16 Vicariates in the Archdiocese is represented by a cleric as its vicar. Vicariates are aligned into the four Regions that make up the Archdiocese.

Vicar – The cleric that represents a particular Vicariate, or grouping of parishes within a certain geographic area. The Vicar is a pastor from one of the parishes in his Vicariate.

Vocation – The calling God has for an individual. Its common use refers specifically to “priestly vocations” or the calling of men to become priests. The Archdiocese of Detroit has an Office of Priestly Vocations which is dedicated to helping men discern whether they have a vocation to the priesthood. The term “vocation” also can refer to “religious vocations” (the calling to become a nun or a brother, for instance) or “lay vocations” (the call to become a wife/husband/parent).