



**Real Presence
Real Future**

Renewing the Church in Central Ohio



**Increasing the
presence of Christ
throughout the
Diocese and
upholding the
Faith for future
generations.**



We are re-imagining how the Church serves Her people. We'll start by listening to the needs of the people, and hearing your ideas, concerns, and desires.





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Real Future**

What is this?

Real Presence, Real Future is a two-year diocesan-wide consultative process that invites participation from clergy, lay ecclesial ministers, parish volunteers, and all the faithful.

By listening to the needs of our people and hearing your ideas, concerns and desires, this process will help determine the best path forward to increase the presence of the Church throughout the Diocese of Columbus.

The purpose is to:

- Reimagine how the Church serves her people throughout the diocese.
- Foster viable, sustainable, and vibrant parishes and schools that support the evangelizing mission of Jesus Christ and His Church.
- Ensure we are serving effectively and preserve the faith for future generations.

This exciting initiative looks to the future of our diocese in light of the unique needs of people today, the needs of the culture around us, and the desire to form and equip Catholics to fulfill their baptismal call to become missionary disciples of our Lord and His Church to those in their everyday lives.



When does this start?

This much anticipated initiative is already underway through prayer and preparation. Throughout Lent, we invite all Catholics to take part in **40 Days of Adoration** which began on Ash Wednesday, and to participate in **Reconciliation on Monday**, March 29, the Monday of Holy Week, by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation available at most parishes from 4-7 pm.

We are also asking the diocese to join together to pray our *Real Presence, Real Future* Prayer found on prayer cards available at all parishes and on the *Real Presence, Real Future* website: www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

Our goal is to identify the needs of our diocese for the 21st Century and how we meet those needs, and to expand Catholic presence to all our people. We want to make the presence of the Lord, the experience of the Sacraments, the encounter with Christ – we want to make that more available to people.

Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan
TWELFTH BISHOP OF COLUMBUS





What focus-areas will be addressed?

We are looking at all facets of our diocesan and parish life including key areas such as:

Forming parishes to be centers for missionary discipleship.

Increasing our ministry presence through the use of lay missionaries.

Exploring creative ways to encounter the non-affiliated and those who no longer attend Mass through initiatives like a “soft-entry” center for evangelization.

Developing a comprehensive strategy for the use of social and digital communications throughout the diocese for evangelization, faith formation, and community-building.

Increasing our ministry presence on college and university campuses.

Supporting our Catholic school faculty and staff to become formators of missionary disciples for the families they serve in our Catholic schools..

Reviewing our diocesan structures to ensure we are operating efficiently to meet the needs of the future, to make best use of our priests and deacons, and provide the necessary support to all of our parishes, schools, and social outreach organizations.

How will this include all of the faithful?

This consultative process will generate feedback in a variety of ways:

RPRF Commission – Collaborating with Bishop Brennan and the diocesan pastoral staff, members of the Commission will serve as ambassadors of the RPRF initiative to their fellow parishioners in local planning areas or the diocesan specialty they represent. They also have the important responsibility of reviewing plans and feedback gathered from our priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful and submitting recommendations to Bishop Brennan. Initiated by Bishop Brennan in January 2021, the Commission consists of representatives from our different geographic planning areas and those who reflect our diverse gifts and talents to help guide this process.

RPRF Parish Leaders - This Spring, five (5) parishioners at each parish will be identified by their pastor as RPRF Parish Leaders to work with the RPRF Commission to consider new models of parish life that take into account the needs of their communities, material resources, and available clergy.

Regional Consultation Sessions - This fall, consultation sessions will take place in local planning areas and at every parish to provide feedback from our priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful regarding the RPRF initiative.

Evangelization Subcommittees – Last Fall, Bishop Brennan established six (6) key subcommittees made up of laity and diocesan leaders to study and propose ways to evangelize in the primary areas of parish and school missionary discipleship formation, college and university outreach, social and digital communications, outreach to the non-affiliated or those who no longer attend Mass, and the use of lay missionaries throughout the diocese to promote evangelization and discipleship formation.

Discipleship Maker Index Survey – Throughout Lent, parishioners at every parish are being given the opportunity to participate in this Diocesan-wide survey that looks at all aspects of parish life from February 17 to March 22. This 75-question survey is available in hard copy at all parishes and digitally on all parish websites as a survey link (www.catholicleaders.org/columbusdmi). Please be sure to participate in this survey at your parish. This is a primary opportunity for you to provide feedback to this process.



How can you stay informed?

There are a variety of ways for you to stay informed about the progress of this initiative:

VISIT

Visit the *Real Presence, Real Future* website. This will be the primary source for information about this initiative and will be routinely updated to provide the latest information and opportunities for feedback and consultation.

ATTEND

Attend parish-level consultations in the fall, parishioners can hear first-hand how RPRF will impact their parish and grow the presence of the Church throughout the Diocese of Columbus.

READ

Read information in *The Catholic Times*, as well as other news sources such as St. Gabriel Radio, AM 820/FM 88.3, and additional regional news sources.

SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe to the monthly *Real Presence, Real Future* e-newsletter. This monthly email will provide updates about this initiative and keep people informed throughout our two-year journey. You can sign up for the e-newsletters on the RPRF website (below).



The Timeline

► January 2021

Establishment of the RPRF Commission

► Lent 2021

Prayer and preparation: 40 Days of Adoration, Reconciliation Monday (March 29), Discipleship Maker Index (Feb 17-March 22), and RPRF prayer begins to be prayed before every Mass in the diocese throughout the two-year duration of the initiative.

► Summer 2021

Data from the Disciple Maker Index survey will be tabulated and results made available to parishes. Based on this feedback, preparations will be made to begin local planning area and parish-level consultation sessions in the Fall.

► Fall 2021

Local planning areas and parish consultation sessions will be held to review findings, receive feedback, and continue the planning process into the next phase in 2022.