



**To the baptized in the Valleyfield Diocese**

Recommendations  
of the  
Committee for the Future of the Parishes

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*Team Work*

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1. Establish a list of priorities in order of importance that can be realistically achieved in order to be able to make medium and/or long-term action plans.  
« Focus on the essentials, the most beautiful, the most attractive, and the most necessary. » (EG #35)

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*Recruitment &  
Succession*

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2. Form a team of “head-hunters” within the parish to help enhance the number of volunteers who could get involved or take on responsibilities such as:

- For animated and engaging pastoral vocations and ministries
- For Christian Life faith formation, taking into consideration intergenerational participation, whole family/community catechesis and catechumenate
- For social justice projects that are consistent with a church « stepping out »
- For maintenance
- For administration
- For various committees (liturgy, baptism preparation, wedding preparation, parish pastoral council, prayer groups, pastoral missions, Bible Study sharing groups, welcoming of new immigrants, refugees, and newcomers, environment, decorations, patrimony, fairs, etc.)
- For the organization of parish events (Parish potlucks, anniversary celebrations, expositions, concerts, raffles, special masses, conferences, church visits, homecomings, Multi-Cultural Celebrations, etc.)

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*Co-responsibility  
of the baptized*

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3. Establish an animation and coordination team of parish life (that can have the name “Parish Pastoral Animation Team”, “PPAT”, or others) by September 2020.

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*Formation*

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4. A significant amount of training/formation time should be offered as a “driving force” in each parish community, targeting all the different groups, organisations and committees (reaching out to new, returning and inactive parishioners).

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*Celebration  
Presider*

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5. In each community and/or pastoral region, there should be a team trained to preside at the Liturgy of the Word celebrations, including Sunday (weekend) celebrations and funerals.

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*Communications*

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6. Designate a parish communication coordinator that will be responsible for updating the parish’s website and social media page, raise awareness and promote parish events as well as diocesan activities, and that will send the weekly bulletin to the diocese to update on their website.

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*Presence*

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7. After sending the annual newsletter (or Annual Appeal) to parishioners, organize a telephone blitz or door to door campaign for a personalized contact that allows for an exchange/conversation with parishioners, informs the parish of its parishioners' needs, and stimulates a sense of belonging to the parish community.

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*Shared  
Leadership*

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8. Provide networking opportunities to connect the Board of Wardens with local business people twice per year to create bridges of understanding between the two communities, raise mutual understanding and awareness of the challenges and realities that each are facing, and develop possible partnerships.

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*Organisation*

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9. Each parish should name/appoint both a President **and** Vice-President to its Assembly.

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*Transparency*

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10. Every three months, present the financial situation of the parish in the parish bulletin and on its website to keep people informed and manage operations with transparency.

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*Finances*

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11. Parishes having five or fewer paid employees may take advantage of administrative support offered from the diocese who can provide parishes with confidential payroll services (salaries, insurance, REER).

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*Priority to  
People*

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12. Take care that we put "people before the programs", according to Pope Francis' great concern that we meet those we serve... "with the humble look of one who knows how to seek in others the presence of God who does not live in the greatness of what we do, but in the smallness of the poor we meet." (Tweet May 23, 2019)

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*Stepping out...*

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13. As a missionary church, make Christian communities more and more present in family circles and social events that you take part in (parades, concerts, festivals, conferences, etc.)

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*Evangelization*

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14. That each act, decision, project bears the primary concern of a life-giving encounter with Jesus Christ and proclaims his love.