**Developing a Dream for your Parish**

*Vision and a dream is more important than strategy. The vision the Lord gives us for our parish is the foundation of our initiatives, while our plans and strategies are simply a means to realize the vision. When the vision is compelling enough, if our first initiative does not work, we can change or adjust our strategy.*

*Imagine wanting to take a family vacation to Hawaii. The vacation is the dream and the airline is the strategy to get there. If the flight gets canceled, you can always take another airline or even a boat. A change of plans is only a delay if your original vision is compelling enough to help you persevere.*

*The exercises below are simply a guide to help facilitate the dreaming process and develop some initial suggestions for a vision which will eventually be made more concrete by your pastor and his leadership team.*

Please use your imagination and write in the present tense.

**Describe what you would like your parish to *look* like?**

*We regularly gather together in homes during the week sharing life and growing in our faith.*

**What does it *sound* like in conversations?**

*“I had been Catholic all my life, but I only really began to be friends with Jesus till I came to this parish and someone taught me how to pray.”*

**What does it *feel* like to be a member?**

*We all know we genuinely belong here because we all have a shared sense of mission for our families and our town.*