

Guiding Principles for the Catholic Community of Northern Anne Arundel County

The Advisory Council of the Cluster comprising the Catholic Community of Northern Anne Arundel County is charged with the development of ten (10) Guiding Principles. These principles have been designed and revised through the work of parishioners, parish staffs, Pastoral Councils, Pastoral Leaders, and the Advisory Council itself. It is our hope that through the continued pursuit of these principles, we can serve and meet the needs of the Cluster as we face the changing resources.

1. The Eucharist should be celebrated among the five parishes during the week, and every weekend, through a coordinated schedule to be distributed throughout the Cluster.
2. Opportunities for spiritual deepening and enrichment should be provided throughout the Cluster (e.g. adoration, devotions, prayer groups, study groups, and other faith expressions).
3. When appropriate and necessary, sacramental preparation and celebrations should be shared and coordinated among the five parishes through joint programming and staffing with consideration given to numbers of persons involved and space accommodations. Parishes having effective ministries and programs that work well and have adequate staffing, paid and/or volunteer, may continue them in their parish.
4. When appropriate and necessary, adult, youth, and young adult faith formation opportunities should be planned, coordinated and hosted among the parishes. Parishes having effective ministries and programs that work well and have adequate staffing, paid and/or volunteer, may continue them in their parish.
5. The Cluster should design and commit to specific actions to search out, invite, train and utilize lay leaders.
6. The Cluster should commit to planning and initiating formalized endeavors to foster Church vocations to priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and lay ecclesial ministry.
7. The Cluster should develop methods of communication within the Cluster using print and electronic media. Member parishes should give priority to cluster wide announcements.
8. The Cluster should plan opportunities for building community among the five parishes through at least one annual gathering associated with ministry and/or non-ministry functions.
9. When appropriate and necessary, the Cluster should expand or create parish ministries and programs to serve the needs of the Catholic Community of Northern Anne Arundel County.
10. The pastoral leaders assigned to the Cluster should work together to assure good pastoral and sacramental care for all five parishes.

Adopted by the Cluster Advisory Council: 6-27-2011

Approved by the Cluster Parish Leaders: 8-1-2011