

The 4-P Parish Strategic Planning Process

We can make our own future. Christian churches in America are facing an unprecedented number of critical internal and external challenges. Only by reaching consensus on how we can together specifically address these unique issues, can we more fully live our Orthodox Faith and give meaning to Christ's Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations."

Strategic planning is an effective process of defining a Parish's statement of why, mission, vision, goals and strategies to successfully achieve its calling. This allows us to manage the "business" of the Parish without turning the Parish into a "business."

A good Parish Strategic Plan must answer four fundamental questions:

1. Why do we exist? Why does our Church exist and why should anyone want to be a part of our Parish?
2. Where are we now? This requires a "brutal facts" assessment of our current Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats from the perspective of all key stakeholders.
3. Where do we want to be? Following our sense of God's calling, we need to pick a reasonable time in the future and outline a comprehensive, consensus vision of our Parish at that time.
4. How will we get there? This is where specific activities and step-by-step actions are outlined in each strategic area of focus to make our Vision a reality.

Building a community consensus will allow all Parishioners to focus on common issues and challenges and cooperatively agree on what we will do to make sure our Parish meets the needs of our Parishioners and fulfills its potential.

Facilitator Bill Marianes has led the strategic planning processes successfully implemented in the Metropolises of San Francisco and Atlanta, and he has trained many Parishes and other non-profit entities.

This entertaining and informative 4-P Parish Strategic Planning program will provide us all of the processes, tools and most successful best practices necessary to lead our Parish to a bright, new and dynamic future.

"Where there is no vision, the people will perish"

Proverbs 29:18