



St. Catherine's Anglican Chaplaincy

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**Diocese
in Europe**

Chaplain's Vision for St. Catherine's Chaplaincy Vision (2025-2030):

A flourishing, Christ-centered community of faith, rooted in diversity, empowered by shared stewardship, and actively engaging with the wider community through meaningful service and outreach.

Introduction:

As mentioned, as notes, in the **Pastoral Groups Approach** presented to the council during our last meeting, the chaplaincy continues to address two key areas of concern: **stewardship and giving (finances)** and **youth engagement**. Earlier, I sent letters to both the youth and their parents, inviting them to reconnect and engage with the chaplaincy. While no responses have been received, this will not deter me from fulfilling my role as your chaplain.

This document outlines **the chaplain's vision**, serving as a starting point and framework for our journey ahead. It is important to note that this is not yet the collective vision, mission, and goals of the chaplaincy, which should eventually be defined together as a community. For now, this serves as a preliminary guide, focused on strengthening our foundations as we prepare to discern and shape a shared vision in the future.

The year 2025 will begin with a **Giving and Stewardship Campaign** during the Advent season (2024), rooted in the feedback from the survey presented by our Communications Officer. Most of the goals for 2025 are continuations or enhancements of existing efforts and align with the **Pastoral Groups Approach**. The first goal, however, introduces a fresh focus on financial stability, addressing a pressing need identified in the survey.

This document builds on the initial efforts we have undertaken and aims to complement and inspire further collaboration. It invites every member and supporter to engage actively as we work together to strengthen and grow our chaplaincy, guided by faith, stewardship, and mission.

Key Aspirations:

1. A Thriving Community of Faith:

St. Catherine's will continue to be a welcoming and inclusive spiritual home, nurturing a strong sense of belonging, unity, and shared purpose.

2. Sustainable Growth and Engagement:

Develop financial stability and robust volunteer participation to sustain and expand our mission and ministries.

3. Enhanced Communication and Participation:

Create dynamic and accessible ways to connect, enabling deeper engagement across our geographically diverse congregation.

4. Expanded Outreach and Witness:

Strengthen our ministry to migrants, refugees, and the wider community, living out the Gospel's call to serve the least and the lost.

5. Empowered Leadership and Shared Responsibility:

Equip and empower members with structured opportunities for leadership, ensuring shared responsibility and active participation in the chaplaincy's growth.

Focus for 2025: Laying the Foundation

2025 Theme:

"Building Together: Strengthening Faith, Stewardship, and Mission"

Primary Goals for 2025:

1. Strengthening Financial Stability:

- a. Highlight the role of **members as Stewards** of the chaplaincy, emphasizing their responsibility to ensure the chaplaincy's financial health and growth.
- b. Launch the Advent Stewardship Campaign to encourage regular and increased giving, focusing on the chaplaincy's shared strengths and community spirit.
- c. Develop a transparent financial report to build trust and accountability, reinforcing confidence in the community's stewardship.
- d. Explore fundraising initiatives such as cultural events, partnerships, or other creative means aligned with the chaplaincy's unique identity.

2. Increasing Volunteer Engagement:

2.1. Leverage the Pastoral Groups Approach for Sunday Service Responsibilities:

- a. Each pastoral group will take on specific Sunday service roles, ensuring a rotation of duties such as readings, intercessions, offertory, and hospitality.
- b. A quarterly schedule will ensure equitable participation and advance preparation.

2.2. Expand Volunteer Opportunities Beyond Sunday Services:

- c. Develop a comprehensive list of volunteer roles for activities such as administrative tasks, outreach programs, and event planning.
- d. Provide opportunities for members to contribute in areas aligned with their skills and interests.

2.3. Recognize and Celebrate Volunteers:

- e. Host an annual "Volunteers Sunday" to celebrate and acknowledge contributions.
- f. Highlight achievements during services or through informal announcements.

2.4. Promote Leadership Development for Volunteers:

- g. Offer training and mentorship opportunities to ensure volunteers feel equipped and supported.
- h. Encourage progression into leadership roles within the chaplaincy.

3. Enhancing Communication and Connection:

- a. Utilize the chaplaincy's existing website as the central hub for updates, announcements, and resources.
- b. Introduce **after-service updates** by the priest to keep the congregation informed of upcoming events and chaplaincy developments, ensuring immediate and relevant communication.

4. Expanding Outreach and Service:

- a. Implement the **Migrants and Refugees Ministry**, approved by the council, to address the needs of

migrants and refugees through education, relief, and community-building initiatives.

- b. Plan at least two major outreach initiatives, such as a food drive or community care event, with participation from both members and supporters.

5. **Fostering Leadership and Shared Responsibility:**

- a. Implement the **Pastoral Groups Approach**, approved by the council, to organize the congregation into smaller, geographically-based groups for improved communication, engagement, and pastoral care.
- b. Provide leadership training for pastoral leaders and assistants, equipping them to fulfill their roles effectively.
- c. Create clear role descriptions for council members and other leadership positions.
- d. Host quarterly planning sessions to encourage collaborative decision-making and ongoing evaluation.

6. **Assessment and Feedback:**

- a. Conduct a congregational survey in September 2025 to evaluate the progress of the year's initiatives.
- b. Use the survey results to guide the assessment and planning for 2026, ensuring that feedback informs the chaplaincy's ongoing growth and focus.

Call to Action for 2025:

As we begin this journey of strengthening our chaplaincy, I invite every member and supporter to commit to these shared goals:

- **Pray:** Lift up our chaplaincy in your prayers, asking for guidance and blessings on our mission.
- **Engage:** Take an active role in the chaplaincy's life by volunteering, participating in events, and building connections.
- **Give:** Support the chaplaincy financially, whether by starting to give, increasing your contributions, or pledging to specific initiatives.

Together, we can build a chaplaincy that thrives in faith, stewardship, and mission, embodying the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ in Stuttgart and beyond.

+Antonio Ablon - The Chaplain