

The National Association of Church Personnel Administrators (NACPA) observed that, in interviews with diocesan employees, very few could articulate the diocesan mission statement. The problem with mission statements is that they say very little. We need to realize that we don't make up our mission – our mission was given to us by Jesus. The title of our plan is 'Witness to Jesus' and this is very important. This is our mission – to witness to Jesus.

Our Road Map focuses on the six areas that were identified by the people of the diocese: Leadership Development, Youth and Young Adult Programs, Faith Formation, Homelessness, Repair and Maintenance of Church and School Facilities, and the Management of Land Assets. These six areas are very important. At the same time, there is the danger that we could "miss the forest for the trees". When Jesus commissioned his followers, he did it from a mountain where he could see all below. It is very significant that we meet here today together so we do not become departmentalized. We are all working toward one goal. It is essential that this group meet from time to time, to know what each other is doing, collaborate, leveraging each other's talents and gifts, and use them for the good of all.

The word implement is both a verb and a noun. Implement as a verb is to take a vision and give it flesh; develop a plan and make it concrete in our lives. Implement as a noun is a tool. We have implements that we use in our work. It is for us to provide tools for the people, realizing that not everybody is an expert – we cannot presume that people will know what to do with the tools we provide. We need to stay on the ground. We need to ask, "Is this tool really something that people will understand and be able to use as an implement in making real the elements of this plan?"

It is vital that we keep focused on the Word of God and on prayer. I observed that many of my classmates who attended Catholic school with me did not have true faith. They missed something very essential – an encounter with the Word of God. We are here to fulfill the mission that Jesus gave to us, to know the Lord and that we are baptized in his name. We invite people to the sacraments and to service to the poor and the needy because this is where we encounter the Lord. It is our task to give "Witness to Jesus."

*~Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu, "Opening Address to the Implementation Commission",
August 2, 2008*