The CBF is a collaborative effort of a diverse group of American Independent Catholic Bishops, whose goal is to form community with one another in an effort to learn from each other and foster collegiality and collaboration. 5-4-24

Catholic Bishops Forum

Statements of Commitment from Assembly 2023

We, the bishops of the Catholic Bishops Forum, are committed to authenticity and integrity. In accordance with the Forum's Statement of Agreement, we are committed to carrying on the work of the Forum by extending an invitation to other bishops and/or jurisdictions that share our beliefs and understanding. In keeping with our commitment to authenticity and integrity, we commit to careful consideration and thorough vetting of all who ask to join the Forum or to whom we extend an invitation to join.

We, the bishops of the Catholic Bishops Forum, are committed to the *academic* formation of seminarians and clergy. We believe that a solid foundation and understanding of Catholic theology, ecclesiology, and sacramentology is necessary for *ongoing* relationships among the bishops of the Forum. To that end we are committed to identifying and sharing current educational resources available in print and online.

We, the bishops of the Catholic Bishops Forum, are committed to the spiritual formation of seminarians and clergy. Our commitment is founded on the belief that a firm foundation in the spiritual life that is both intellectual and experiential forms the basis of the development and unfolding of priestly identity. We hold that we are called to awaken the Christ Presence as lived reality within us, and to engage the world as *alter Christus* in works of justice, mercy, and love. To that end, we are committed to creating an outcome-based plan for an enriched spiritual life. We envision a spiritual formation program that draws on the services and resources of spiritual directors, spiritual mentors, and facilitators who, in consultation with their jurisdictions, will support seminarians and clergy in their spiritual journey.

We, the bishops of the Catholic Bishops Forum, are committed to the formation of bishops, beginning with their spiritual formation. It is our belief that an

openness to God is the only true source for fruitful ministry. "They are like trees planted by streams of living water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither" *(Psalm 1:3).* For this reason, we are committed to creating a comprehensive spiritual formation program for participants in the Forum. We propose that the basis of the program be in place by Pentecost 2025, and we authorize the Steering Committee to establish a Spiritual Formation Commission by January 15, 2024, to develop the steps to achieve the stated goals.

We, the bishops of the Catholic Bishops Forum, are committed to be being prophets, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the modern world. It is our responsibility to convey to all, and especially to the marginalized, a message of social justice in accordance with Catholic social teaching. To extend our outreach to the world, we commit to having a moderated constant presence on social media, initially on Facebook and Instagram, and then eventually on other social media platforms. We invite the various communions and jurisdictions of the Forum to share in the posting of relevant content.