Mission
Leadership Roundtable promotes best practices and accountability in the management, finances, communications, and human resources development of the Catholic Church in the U.S., including greater incorporation of the expertise of the laity. To learn more or watch our mission video, visit leadershiproundtable.org/who-we-are/our-mission/

What We Do
Leadership Roundtable partners with Catholic lay and ordained leaders to create mission-driven, vibrant faith communities. We offer a range of leadership and management services including the Mission Management Model, a system-wide approach for Catholic dioceses, religious orders, and other Catholic institutions to achieve management and leadership excellence in service of their mission. Leadership Roundtable also offers individual Catholic leadership and management services, including:

Catholic Standards for Excellence is a comprehensive set of managerial best practices that help leaders advance the Catholic Church’s mission through the prudent and just stewardship of its resources. These guiding principles include detailed performance benchmarks designed to assist Catholic parishes, dioceses, and nonprofits strengthen their operations.

Catholic Leadership 360 is a leadership development program that offers priests and lay leaders fresh insight into their effectiveness as leaders in the Church. The program provides a unique opportunity for growth in leadership using structured feedback from those with whom clergy and lay leaders interact regularly. A personal development plan is then created by each leader.

Diocesan Office Assessment is a well-established assessment method to provide concise recommendations and a clear roadmap for moving toward best practice in diocesan administration and leadership. It is designed for chanceries and diocesan offices that want to move towards implementing managerial best practices. It compares the functioning of a diocesan office with the highest-functioning comparable offices in the country, in terms of structure, use of resources, and organizational culture.

Leadership Coaching helps participants move toward the goals they prioritize in a professional development plan. The coach offers accountability, support, reflection, and resources. This is a stand-alone service or may serve as a follow-up service to Catholic Leadership 360.
Leadership Consulting provides consulting services in the areas of management and leadership to individual Church leaders or leadership teams. Leadership Roundtable uses high-quality, professional consulting as a way to help Catholic leaders transform their dioceses, religious orders, Catholic charities, and other entities into places where managerial best practices are the norm.

Roadmapping is a comprehensive planning process that involves identifying an objective, dividing it into manageable segments, organizing priorities, establishing action steps towards the named objective in a coherent sequence, and assigning accountability measures and timelines for moving forward.

Toolbox for Pastoral Management is a comprehensive program that introduces participants to the key elements of pastoral management, intended for priests and lay pastoral leaders. This week-long residential program covers essential management topics critical to the pastoral role. Participants engage in a lecture-style series of presentations that provide practical, ready-to-use “tools” for the busy pastoral leader. Prayer, the sacraments, and fellowship round out this formational initiative.

ESTEEM (Engaging Students to Enliven the Ecclesial Mission) is a leadership development program for Catholic students at colleges and universities across the United States. With an emphasis on spirituality, education, and community, ESTEEM challenges Catholic young adults to consider how they might best fulfill their baptismal call to serve in the Church following graduation. This is a joint program in collaboration with Saint Thomas More Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University.

Testimonials

“What I admire most about Leadership Roundtable is that they offer a transformative, implementation model to support the bishop, diocesan staff, and pastors to make a lasting cultural shift towards best practices in Church management.”
Cardinal Joseph Tobin
Archdiocese of Newark

“Leadership Roundtable is the foremost organization in the country offering leadership and managerial expertise to Catholic pastoral leaders and institutions. Through their trainings and services, Leadership Roundtable is dedicated to promoting a positive culture shift in the management and leadership of Catholic institutions so they may better serve the people they reach. In my experience, their approach to enhancing the managerial and leadership practices of an entire community, service provider, or diocese is transformative and lasting.”
Chancellor Barbara Anne Cusack
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

“Leadership Roundtable has been an excellent resource for me as director of the Institute for Ongoing Clergy Formation (IOCF). After doing some research, I felt the Roundtable was the best fit for getting the IOCF pastor development workshop off the ground. I saw a model with proven success around the country, certainly because the people of Leadership Roundtable are truly committed to excellence in service of the Church.”
Deacon Daniel Gannon, J.D. M.A., Director, Institute for On-Going Clergy Formation
The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity (in Minnesota)
History

Fifteen years ago as the Church struggled through a time of crisis, a group of lay Catholics sought a way to help the Church move forward. They could imagine a time when the Church operated out of contemporary best practices in management and leadership that were uniquely and faithfully created for the Catholic environment. In turn, those best practices could pave the way towards a healthier more vibrant Catholic experience.

In consultation with senior members of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops, the founders hosted two historic gatherings in 2003 and 2004 that generated an engaging dialogue on “The Church in America: The Way Forward in the 21st Century” and resulted in 48 powerful recommendations of best practices and innovative solutions on topics of management, finances, communication, and human resources for use at national, diocesan, and parish levels.

Today, Leadership Roundtable has become the foremost Catholic organization serving senior Church leaders with management expertise in the United States and beyond. The organization responds to emerging trends to create a suite of services that equip institutions to utilize best practices in leadership and management. Leadership Roundtable has worked in over 75% of U.S. Catholic dioceses.

What began 15 years ago as a courageous conversation between laity and clergy has led to a transformation in the management culture of the U.S. Catholic Church: the recognition that management at its best has always been and should always be about the people it serves and the greater mission of Christ that unites us all.

Leadership: Board of Directors

Leadership Roundtable is led by a dedicated and talented Board of Directors. A full list of the current board of directors and board emeriti may be found on our website: https://leadershiproundtable.org/who-we-are/board-of-directors/

Leadership: CEO

Kim Smolik, Ed.D, serves as the CEO of Leadership Roundtable. Throughout her career, Kim has proven to be a dynamic and committed advocate for leadership development, community service, and social justice. She has a passion for helping others to become agile and collaborative leaders whose skills serve a purpose-driven mission and have measurable impact. Kim founded the Nonprofit Servant Leadership Program that offers Catholic young adults the opportunity to give back as they
develop their leadership and nonprofit management skills during one year of full-time service in Washington, DC. She also developed international service programs for Franciscan Mission Service in Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, Guatemala and Jamaica.

During her eight-year tenure as Executive Director of Franciscan Mission Service, Kim forged strong ties between Franciscan constituencies domestically and internationally. From this platform, she began to regularly contribute to national and international thought leadership in the Catholic Church. She has been a guest speaker or facilitator at various Catholic gatherings in the United States and abroad, including the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, Conference of Major Superiors of Men, United States Catholic Mission Association, and Catholic Volunteer Network, on whose executive board she served from 2006 through 2012. Kim has developed a solid track record of success in the strategic oversight of Catholic nonprofit operations. For her efforts, she was awarded a highly competitive Leadership Fellowship with the Archibald Bush Foundation.

Kim received her Doctorate of Education from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, MN. Her dissertation research focused on racial justice in the workplace, adult transformational learning, and organizational development, particularly in a Catholic context. She has an MA in Curriculum Development and Cross-Cultural Education from the University of Alabama, and a BA in History and Education from Bethel University in St. Paul, MN. Kim is also a Certified Intercultural Development Inventory Administrator, a certified Co-Active® leadership and executive coach, and an experienced facilitator in diversity and racial justice trainings. Kim has extensive cross-cultural expertise, having taught high school, college, and adult social justice advocacy programs in Cuba, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Mexico. She has worked in and traveled to over 55 countries.

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Leadership Roundtable shares a monthly newsletter with leadership and management tips, information about upcoming programs, and spotlights on best practices. Sign up at leadershiproundtable.org/join

Connect with Us
For more information, to set up an interview, or to be added to our media list, contact media@leadershiproundtable.org or 202.635.5820.

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