

## **Five-to-One: Our plan for the future of Holy Name of Jesus**

I'm now in my second year as pastor of HNJ. Knowing that the average tenure of a Jesuit pastor is about six years, from day-one I began thinking about what we might accomplish as a church community during my tenure. I've consulted "people in the pew," staff, councils, volunteers, effective leaders from other parishes, and books on best practices for today's Catholic parishes. It has also been a leading topic of my conversations with God in my personal prayer. Gleaned from all of this discernment, I'm ready now to propose a strategy for the coming years. I have presented this strategy to our staff, counsels, and leaders of the parish. I'm delighted to say that it has always been met with great enthusiasm. We called this strategic plan "The Five-to-One Plan." The concept is the idea of five pillars holding up one grand structure. You'll be hearing a lot more about this plan in the coming weeks and months. Today, let me present you with a brief overview.

**Pillar #1: Youth and Young Adults.** HNJ has a strong but small group of young adults (ages 18-40) who gather for prayer, socializing, and spiritual formation. We intend for this group to expand both in numbers and in activities. Meanwhile, for many years now, HNJ has struggled to maintain a lively, faith-filled and fun youth group (ages 11 to 18). Unfortunately, we are limited in what we can do until COVID restrictions allow kids to interact more freely. Our plan then is to start slowly, perhaps engaging the oldest students of Holy Name of Jesus School as the seed for a new youth group.

**Pillar #2: Adult Spiritual Formation.** While the parish has always had bible studies, lectures, parish missions, perpetual adoration and the like, we hope to be more systematic and expansive in our offerings. We hope to offer small gatherings for community and spiritual nourishment. Scripture, church teaching, and Ignatian Spirituality will be prominent topics in our adult spiritual formation program.

**Pillar #3: Justice and Outreach.** Holy Name of Jesus has a rich history in activities that strive for a more just society, mostly through organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul Society and Respect for All Life. However, there is so much more that we can do to become well-informed about the social teaching of the church and to work for societal justice, toleration, acceptance, respect and reconciliation for all. Holy Name of Jesus is a "Community for Others," ever striving to bring Christ's universal and salvific love to all peoples.

**Pillar #4: Institutional Advancement and Development.** The parish and school will be launching a capital campaign to raise money for, among other things, capital repairs and renovation of our 90-year-old school building, our 101-year-old church and our 63-year-old parish center building. Perhaps more importantly, we dream of strengthening our culture of sharing all resources within our community, not simply our financial resources.

**Pillar #5: HNJ-Online!** In the midst of all of the obstacles and challenges brought on by COVID, a beautiful grace from God was given to us: We suddenly found ourselves with a huge international

online community. Over 30,000 people participated in our Ascending with Ignatius online retreat, and our Masses enjoy about 1,000 views each week! Our vision for the future is to intentionally and formally welcome this new online community into our 129-year-old church community.

The one grand structure which these five pillars will support is that of a renewal of our parish—a parish that stands on the shoulders of those who have worshipped here since 1892 and soars to the heights as the Catholic Church continues its pilgrim journey through the 21st Century and ever deeper into the saving arms of Jesus Christ, whose holy name we keep ever at the center of all that we do.

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