

Saint Agnes Five Year Report 2019

Question 3 - What **goals** and **objectives** do you think Saint Agnes Parish should pursue in the next six years?



- ✦ More unity - English/Spanish Need to have more of the youth return to the Church

- ✦ As I said before, Greenport is changing. More “city” are buying out here. The town is humming in in the summer. Maybe special events to attract crowds in the summer or any time of the year. We need more money. We can’t depend on the current parishioners for all of it. I am the sure that the restaurants in town would sponsor a drive to raise money, Peconic Landing events, Maritime Festival exposure, etc. Many others parishes now have Deacons. Priests are dwindling so maybe get a Deacon to talk up his role in their parish. The young generation will be driving new ideas so grab onto to them and bring them in.

- ✦ Evangelization – going out to the community making presence known. Lay Ministers take on a more active role – how about celebrating Marriages? Take some pressure off our Priests.

- ✦ Continue to support and develop St. Agnes pastoral leadership
Study ways to bring together St. Agnes parishioners on a regular basis to develop members’ sense of personal community within this faith community. Goal here is to discern and develop ways that “fit” the unique character of St. Agnes faith community. In an active faith community in NYC where I have attended regular services, the community in the Fall begins “open discussion groups” twice/month at two meeting times (one week evening time and one Sunday afternoon—so that parishioners have times to choose from) for 3 months (a total of six meetings)—in order to facilitate parishioners input into the life of the community, their getting to know one another in more personal ways, and how they would like to see the community develop as a parish: for individual parishioners and for the individual as a whole.
Care of the sanctuary....are there ways that parishioners can contribute more to this ongoing sustainable endeavor?
Social Justice....are there ways St. Agnes would like to improve and develop their contribution to Social Justice issues in our community—including integrating diversity issues in our own parish faith community? Commence a committee to study this with the objective of providing a report and a possible plan of action for developing and improving this area of our life as a parish.
Study and then implement ways to make our parish life “relevant” to the droves of young adults who visit Greenport via train throughout the entire year—especially during the Spring-Fall months.
Study and implement ways to strengthen our support of families—of all forms—both inside and outside of our parish community.

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- ✦ I have also thought that we need more money drives, raffles, advertising, etc. Years ago, Father Tom was in Maritime Festival and blessed the crowd. I was impressed with that. Peconic Landing has a lot parishioners. How do we get more interaction with that group and hence more donations. The people that live there are mostly well off. Like I said before, how about Deacons? With the shortage of priests, we need more leaders. Maybe it seems funny but if you ever saw the movie Sister Act with Whoopi Goldberg, it was up-lifting. Recruiting businessmen to volunteer with finances of the church and John's Place will be an add on goal. With Greenport getting like the Hamptons, I bet the restaurants and bars would support charity's and drives. New York people are buying here. Many are young and maybe sign up with Faith Direct.
- ✦ Keep doing what it has been doing.
- ✦ Continue to create programs that will excite the young people about their faith and continue to create programs that reach out and include our Spanish community and continue John's Place and allow the young people to help out at John's Place. Let them and their parents see how to reach out and accept others less fortunate than themselves.
- ✦ I believe the most helpful goals and objectives St Agnes should pursue in the next 6 yrs are helping young and old (and in between) who are connected in any way to St. Agnes to Love God above all else and treat others as they want to be treated. And to be thankful daily to God for ALL blessings.
- ✦ Keep our doors open. Attract younger parishioners. Keep the children attending mass even after they make their confirmation.
- ✦ To begin with I need to distinguish a goal from an objective using a football analogy. A goal is a touchdown - an objective is a first down. So, we start with the objectives. First, we need to reduce parish volunteer training into a digital format available 24 hours a day. Next we must convert the training into the Spanish language to provide availability to our Latino members. We must publicize our bi-lingual efforts through our local media - adding advertising costs of this sort to the parish budget is a worthwhile effort in this direction. We must track the effects and make adjustments. A 10% increase in a year in parish volunteerism from our youth and Spanish community suggests a successful beginning. We must track the attendance of parishioners at our bi-lingual pizza and wine parties, Broadway show trips, BBQ's, and prayer and special religious sessions that are either particular to a time in the Liturgical calendar or regularly offered. Inclusion and integration - assimilation - are the parish's future and the computer can help enormously and the goal is assimilation of the majority of our Spanish colleagues.

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- ✦ Perhaps have each ministry submit an idea to foster community events or celebrations that would enhance the parish life and community.
- ✦ Offer more ecumenical programs. Make St. Agnes a true presence in Greenport. Offer our campus for community meetings. Host ecumenical discussions groups. Create “family “ centered programs. Create teen centered activities...Put basketball court in the parish center and have open play for teen nights. Have a deacon who is dedicated to teens and can establish teen centered discussion groups. Get our families back to church.
- ✦ Goals: Maintain current leadership and direction. I truly look forward to each Sunday service.
- ✦ Keep tracking the changing population and act accordingly.
- ✦ To continue to minister to the needy, assist the Spanish population to remain safe and secure in their lives, and maintain the building and grounds in as good a shape as they are now.
- ✦ To unify the cultures within the parish to promote unity, trust and understanding.
- ✦ Perhaps to develop a Youth Ministry (create a youth Mass) to involve the younger members of the community.
- ✦ Increase our membership by offering programs to attract young adults to our church. Increase donations by underscoring that the sad chapter in the church was mostly confined to 1960's - 80's, the resolutions ongoing, and the prayerful hope for the future of the church. Increase member involvement by proactively offering pathways to ministries, activities.
- ✦ strong reserve fund for future repairs and upkeep of church and rectory.
- ✦ Expand opportunities for youth involvement. Increase outreach to Hispanic community. Encourage vocations to the religious life. Increase ecumenical spirit in our communities.
- ✦ Integration of the Hispanic community with the faith community of St Agnes. Increased faith formation student involvement in the Masses. Intentional solicitation of volunteer first responders.

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- ✦ We need to recruit more Eucharistic Ministers especially for the summer months when there are four Masses.
- ✦ Increase membership in the Rosary Altar Society.
- ✦ Continue to good work which is currently being done. The most important goal and objective to me is increasing our parish population. Events which will draw attention to St. Agnes, and the wonderful parish it is, has been and continues to be.
- ✦ Discussion groups.
- ✦ *Sharing resources with other local parishes especially for Young adult and adult faith formation opportunities on the North Fork. * Encouraging youth and those who are discouraged to attend Mass and become involved. * Continuing to provide reading material to assist parishioners in understanding of the Catholic Church, and perhaps opportunities for discussion of books and issues.
- ✦ To increase attendance at Mass.
- ✦ Strengthen community feeling I believe the above suggestion would do that.
- ✦ The catholic church as a whole is losing young families with children. We must be doing something wrong and need to find a way to bring them back to the church.
- ✦ Increase and encourage more young families to attend Mass regularly, especially families with children enrolled in Faith Formation classes.
- ✦ Music ministry with involvement of youth i.e. young people's music group/ choir. Deacon assigned to assist One Priest in Parish.
- ✦ Continue to build on our many current strengths, especially that ALL are welcome.
- ✦ 1) Create a committee on ecumenism from council and other St. Agnes parish members
2) Study together ways to explore and participate in community activities that expand our awareness and our participation with other faith communities here in Greenport 3) Get together with other Faith communities and explore ecumenism and the possibilities of activities of ecumenism here in Greenport. 4) Create "action plans" for Ecumenism here in Greenport.
- ✦ Continue to support the community - John's Place, North Fork Parish Outreach, Hispanic

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mass, and continue to address the issue of abuse.

- ✦ Teen program - something for the youth after confirmation.
- ✦ Evangelization with Bishop Barres follow his plan, his initiatives.
- ✦ Modify left-over traditions, like the 4-Mass Schedule and Midnight Mass at Midnight on Christmas Eve (move to 10 p.m.), to meet the changed demographics and realities of our small community. Face the reality of who we are: young families cannot afford to live in the area or join our Parish. We must make do with the loyal but shrinking population that we have. Our goal should be to continue making St. Agnes the best Catholic worship community it can be.
- ✦ Finding new ways to reach out to young families and new parishioners where they are on their faith journeys Provide more opportunities for parish family to come together in positive joyous ways throughout the liturgical year Continue to support the elderly of the parish and their caretakers.
- ✦ Build upon the long history of St Agnes Parish and adapt to future generations and demographics. Research other diocese programs/ideas and see what could be implemented, even on a trial period here. Thanks for listening.
- ✦ Maybe start a church choir. Paved parking lot. Start a catholic singles group. Maybe a book club. Monthly charity event. Paid positions to run programs.
- ✦ More inclusive and welcoming to the large LGBTQ Greenport community.
- ✦ Increasing social outreach ministry into community. Offering young people (off all faiths) a youth center in the old school in which they could socialize (play pool, ping pong. etc.) in a safe and welcoming atmosphere.
- ✦ As stated above more effort is needed to bring the parish forward in service to the young. Along with more control of day to day operation of the parish to include lay people.
- ✦ More use of the school property for religious and or other type of classes for seniors or interested parishioners. Maybe Meditation, yoga, taichi, self-defense?
- ✦ Bring back programs for high school and young adults.

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- ✦ I would like to see our parish again have an elementary school reopened by a financial outreach and public relations program to inspire parishioners with elementary grade children to help starting enrollment. I believe without the program our religion will fade away even faster as it is doing now. Start with a pre-kindergarten program.
- ✦ It appears the future of the Catholic Church is in the Spanish members, Regarding Cemetery, build mausoleums (like Presbyterian Church).
- ✦ Perhaps more social get togethers with the people of St. Agnes.
- ✦ Initiating the custom of observing silence following various parts of the Mass. Perhaps a bit less time would serve the purpose.
- ✦ Possibly run more social events, maybe one a quarter, for the purpose of getting together as a Parish. It could be something simple, like a pizza party or ice cream social - maybe with music, etc. This can only serve the common good bringing us together.
- ✦ Increase holy communion receiving after first communion.
- ✦ Schedule more events to bring the whole parish together including Spanish community and young families.
- ✦ I think the Parish should consider a Goal of serving its 3 distinct communities (long-time locals, summer residents, Latino community) for growth; separate and together. The second and third generations of the Latino and Summer Communities can be a growth area for the church in physical numbers, but also in revenue into the future. How do we embrace these communities for the next generations? Eventually the communities will merge in some ways, particularly the Latino community will become more intertwined with the Local-community and we want to make sure the younger generation feels embraced by the Parish.
- ✦ Bringing in the youth of our community to Mass.