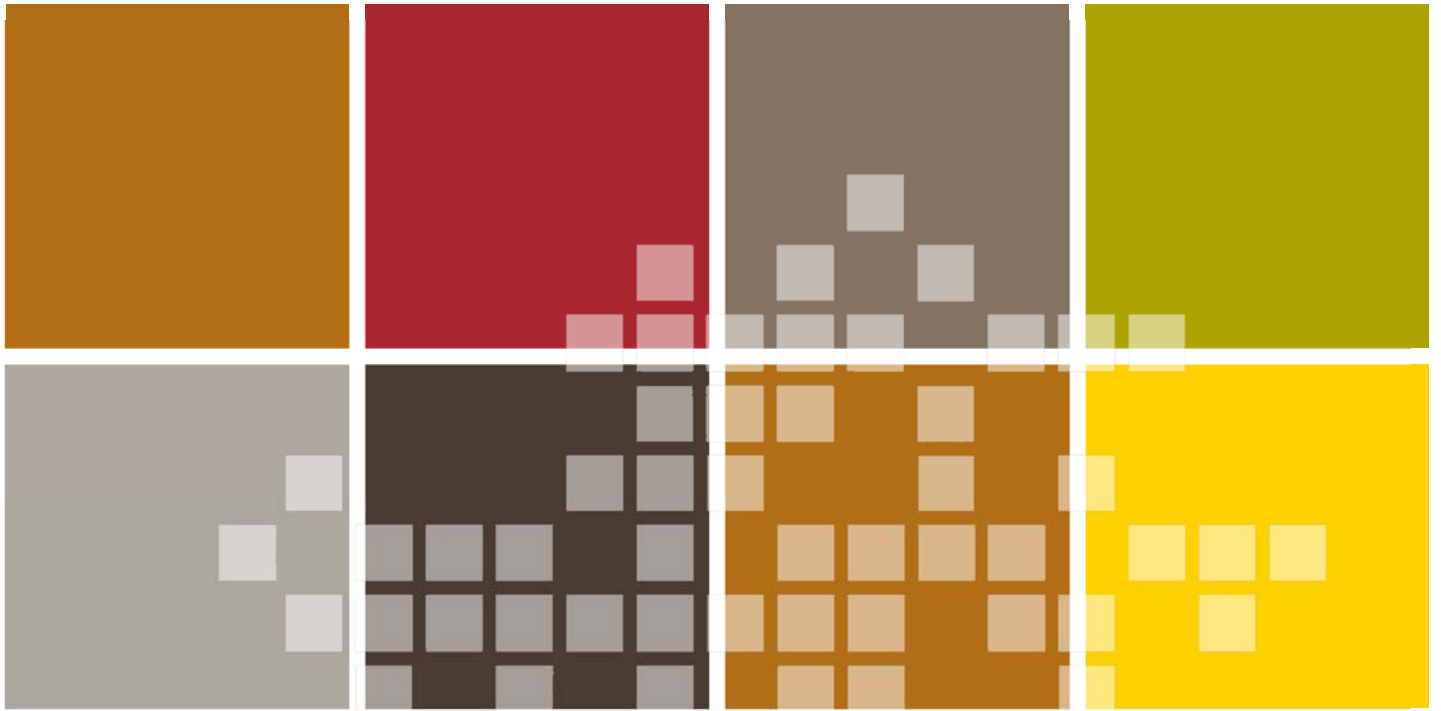

Vision 20/20: Plan for Engagement and Growth in Discipleship and Evangelization



**Corpus Christi Catholic Parish
Council Bluffs, IA**

October, 2019

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INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Church is entrusted to us by Christ. The Church has as its primary mission: to proclaim the Good News, to welcome people into a community of faith, to be centered in the Eucharist, and to serve those in need. The plan for Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs, Iowa is firmly rooted in the hope and expectation that the mission of the Church can be carried out even more effectively than is currently being done.

The primary purpose of the Pastoral Plan is to give the leadership of the parish an agreed-upon path for decision-making that strategically achieves long-term goals. The plan calls for the people of God to be engaged personally and corporately in mission and ministry, living as intentional disciples of Jesus. It also provides practical direction and the resources needed to accomplish desired goals regarding volunteers, staffing, facilities, and funding. The pastor and pastoral council will evaluate the progress of the implementation on a regular basis.

The plan does not preclude or replace most already-existing ministries and programs. Much of the current activity in the parish will continue. Over time, the plan initiatives will impact all the programs and activities in each area of ministry.

PLANNING PROCESS

In July of 2019, the Corpus Christi strategic planning process continued with the support of the pastor and pastoral council. The process is facilitated by Meitler of Hales Corners, Wisconsin, who are national pastoral and Catholic school strategic planning consultants.

The process will include consultation on the plan with parish leaders and parishioners. Further edits and revisions will be made to the plan until there is general consensus on its priorities and goals. Teams for each of the priorities will design strategies for the implementation of each goal. Meitler will also provide assistance to these teams.

The plan has been made available to all leadership groups as well as parishioners. Ownership of and support for the plan by parishioners is critically important for an effective implementation. All parishioners are invited to participate in the process and to support as well as assist in the implementation.

VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Vision Statement

Parishes often develop a brief statement or phrase which captures where they want to be in the future. This vision is developed by the pastoral council.

Corpus Christi Parish views this future plan as “**Vision 20/20.**” The vision guides the development of a **strategic plan for engagement and growth in discipleship and evangelization.** The 20/20 in the vision refers not only to the next decade in time but also to the ability to see and act more clearly in the future.

Priorities

A thorough community demographic and parish data study has helped to identify four priorities upon which the plan has been developed and that will shape the future of the parish for years to come:

1. Excellence in Liturgy and Hospitality

The parish recognizes that the Eucharist and the sacraments are at the center of community life and each person’s spirituality. Greater emphasis will be placed on hospitality, hymns, and homilies.

How effectiveness will be measured: an increase in Mass attendance, sacramental reception, and participation in other forms of communal prayer and devotion.

2. Growth through Evangelization and Outreach to the Community

The parish has identified the Hispanic and senior communities as having great potential for membership growth. In connection with these efforts, greater focus will be given to reaching out to those in the community who need loving care and attention.

How effectiveness will be measured: an increase in membership, outreach activity, and parishioner participation in outreach activity.

3. Increase in Small Groups and Faith Formation Opportunities

In order to engage and involve parishioners of all ages in the mission of the Church, effort will be directed to forming more small groups of adults and offering more opportunities for faith formation.

How effectiveness will be measured: an increase in the number of groups and participants as well as enrollment growth.

4. Promotion of Stewardship and Consolidation

The parish recognizes its own role as well as that of each parishioner to respond to the call to be disciples through stewardship, in other words, to share what God has given us and to use those gifts wisely.

How effectiveness will be measured: balanced budgets, an increase in financial stewardship, and an increase in the number of parishioners involved in ministries.

PLAN OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

PRIORITY	GOALS
Excellence in Liturgy and Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey parishioners about Sunday Mass experience; survey regarding Mass schedule ● Provide enhanced training for liturgical ministries. ● Expand music ministry.
Growth through Evangelization and Outreach to the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a ministry to invite members of the Hispanic community to join the parish. ● Develop a ministry to serve seniors and to invite them to join the parish community. ● Organize and expand the parish outreach ministries to people in need.
Increase in Small Groups and Faith Formation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Form more small groups and invite adult parishioners to participate. ● Study and make recommendations regarding the faith formation opportunities for all members of the parish. ● Develop youth and young adult ministries for high school students and the 20 and 30 age groups.
Promotion of Stewardship and Consolidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unify the parish and expand the facilities at the primary site. ● Conduct a financial stewardship approach in the parish. ● Develop strategies for the orientation and involvement of parishioners as well as an effective communication plan.

GOALS FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND ENGAGEMENT

A. Excellence in Liturgy and Hospitality

- 1. Survey parishioners about the Sunday Mass experience, Mass schedule and opportunities for sacraments and prayer in order to maximize participation and attendance.**
 - a. Weekly feedback from parishioners regarding their experience of Sunday Mass. *Timeline: October, 2020. Responsible: Liturgy committee.*
 - b. Survey parishioners regarding new Mass times and develop a transition plan. *Timeline: January, 2020. Responsible: Liturgy committee.*
 - c. Implement a new Mass schedule with the intention of increasing Mass attendance.
- 2. Provide enhanced training for liturgical ministries.**
 - a. Increase the formal training for ministers by offering every other month.
 - b. Recruit and train greeters to welcome people at new Mass times.
- 3. Expand music ministry.**
 - a. Develop music ministry which is specific to each Mass.
 - b. Form adult and youth choirs.

B. Growth Through Evangelization and Outreach to the Community

- 1. Develop a ministry to invite members of the Hispanic community to join the parish.**
 - a. Create a core leadership group. *Timeline: October 2019. Responsible: Hispanic ministry.*
 - b. Create an organizational chart with a clear work process and a plan to bring communities closer. *Timeline: Late October-early November 2019. Responsible: Pastoral Council and Hispanic ministry.*
 - c. Create a youth group.
 - d. Visit families door-to-door (*puerta a puerta*) who are members but not active and invite them to participate in parish activities. *Timeline: early November 2019 and during Lent of 2020. Responsible: Pastoral Council and Hispanic ministry.*
- 2. Develop a ministry to serve seniors and to invite them to join the parish community.**
 - a. Form a core team of seniors.
 - b. Determine the components of the ministry and a strategy for reaching out to members and potential members.
 - c. Conduct the ministry.
- 3. Organize and expand the parish outreach ministries to people in need.**
 - a. Form/re-invigorate the social concerns committee to report their activity to the pastoral council.
 - b. Develop a list of existing ministries and potential new ministries.
 - c. Present a report to the council with recommendations and implement as agreed upon.

C. Increase in Small Groups and Faith Formation Opportunities

1. Form more small groups and invite adult parishioners to participate.

- a. Begin publishing testimonials of Arise through various social media and marketing avenues. *Timeline: now and ongoing. Responsible: Arise Leadership Teams.*
- b. Promote season 4 participation, make efforts to form groups of youth, complete season 5. *Timeline: pre-Lent of 2020. Responsible: Arise Leadership Teams.*
- c. Build a new leadership team of 12 members. *Timeline: By Winter of 2020. Responsible: Arise Leadership Teams.*
- d. Select a new small group process, train new small group leaders, and conduct groups only during the Lenten season, with a goal of at least 300 participants. *Timeline: Lent of 2021. Responsible: New leadership team.*

2. Study and make recommendations regarding the faith formation opportunities for all members of the parish.

- a. Study current programs and new possibilities and create a report with recommendations.
- b. Submit the report to the pastoral council and determine a plan.
- c. Create a timeline and implement the plan.

3. Develop youth ministry and young adult ministries for high school students and the 20 and 30 age groups.

- a. Identify and recruit core teams for youth ministry and for young adult ministry.
- b. Develop strategies for both ministries and submit plans to the pastoral council.
- c. Create timelines and implement the plans.

D. Promotion of Stewardship and Unification

1. Unify the parish and expand the facilities at the primary site.

- a. Meet with groups and individuals from Holy Family and all sites to build unity. *Timeline: Begin in September of 2019. Responsible: Parish Unification Team.*
- b. Conduct socials and liturgical events to build unity. *Timeline: Begin in November. Responsible: Parish Unification Team.*
- c. Develop strategies for incorporating religious articles into the primary site, such as the altar, ambo, and stained-glass windows.
- d. Study potential uses for the Holy Family site and make recommendations to the finance council.
- e. Prepare for the expansion of the primary site, conduct a capital campaign, and develop a construction plan.

2. Conduct a financial stewardship approach in the parish.

- a. Present the stewardship approach and conduct the campaign. *Timeline: October 2019. Responsible: Stewardship committee.*
- b. Evaluate the results and plan for the next campaign.

- 3. Develop strategies for the orientation and involvement of parishioners as well as an effective communication plan.**
- a. Establish tools to discern the talents of parishioners and match them with parish ministries.
 - 1) Conduct formal talent finder training.
 - 2) Find new ways to inform parishioners of ministries.
 - b. Provide options for welcoming and orienting new parishioners.
 - 1) Host a first Friday Mass in the evening followed by a dinner.
 - 2) Each dinner would be sponsored by a different parish ministry. *Timeline: Start in January. Responsible: Fr. Tom, Liturgy committee, and Stewardship committee.*
 - c. Launch new parish website.
 - 1) The committee will evaluate content and make changes.
 - 2) An office liaison will be identified to communicate with the committee. *Timeline: As soon as domain name is changed. Responsible: Digital outreach committee.*
 - d. Introduce a parish rideshare which will provide transportation to Sunday Mass for those in need.

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the plan will be monitored by the pastor and pastoral council.

Possible organization and timeline for the implementation will be discussed and recommended by the priority teams.

Below is a timeline, group responsible, and activity chart for the initial goals in each priority area.

Month	Group	Activity
October 2019 January, 2020	Liturgy Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from parishioners Survey on Mass schedule
October, 2019	Hispanic Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a core leadership group
October 2019 Lent, 2020 Fall, 2020 Lent, 2021	Arise Leadership Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arise Season 3 Arise Season 4 Arise Season 5, recruit new leadership team -12 members Begin new small group process
October 2019 November 2019 March 1, 2020	Parish Unification Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with groups and individuals at Holy Family Large group meetings after Masses at all sites Last Mass at Holy Family site
October, 2019	Stewardship Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct parish stewardship campaign