

KEY DIRECTIONS: PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED
Feedback Received From the Open Parish Meeting, March 27th, 2017

An open parish meeting was held on March 27th, 2017 to continue our strategic planning process. Following an opening prayer by Fr. Earl, the progress made to date towards the strategic plan was briefly reviewed by Doreen Neville. Since June 2016, a broadly consultative process (meetings of the parish planning committee, open parish meetings, surveys at mass, and personal communication with Fr. Earl) has led to the creation of the parish *Foundational Statement, Vision, Values, Principles and 4 Key Directions (Build Relationships; Foster Spirituality and Faith Development; Support Social Justice and Commit to Sustainability)*. General approaches within each key direction have also been identified.

The purpose of the March 27th, 2017 meeting was to identify 2-3 priorities within each key direction and suggestions for how to focus our actions around these priorities moving forward. Four discussion groups were designated – one for each Key Direction. Each group was led by a facilitator and notes were taken by a recorder. The groups met for approximately one hour and then provided verbal reports back to the full group. Recorders provided their written notes to Doreen Neville, who summarized them and returned them to each group facilitator and recorder for review.

The proposed priorities under each key direction are listed below. Parishioners who wish to provide additional input are invited to give their feedback in writing to Fr. Earl no later than Sunday, May 7th, 2017. Once any additional feedback has been considered, the list of priorities under each key direction will be finalized. The Strategic Plan will be brought forward to the Parish Council through the Parish Planning Committee (anticipated June 2017).

KEY DIRECTION: BUILD RELATIONSHIPS
Facilitator: Jamie Parsons; Recorder Mabel Ryan

Priorities:

1. Increase participation of young people
2. Increase opportunities for parishioners to volunteer
3. Enhance the music program

Suggested Focus Within Priorities

1. Increase participation of young people
 - Create a youth focus group to explore their needs and help them identify what the parish can do to help them along in their spiritual journey
 - Dialogue with parents and children to identify their needs and make their experiences within the parish meaningful
 - Put specific structures and organization in place (in addition to the mass) that will engage young people and help them feel truly part of the parish
 - Connect our young people with Jesuit online materials for social justice
 - Use social media to connect with young people
2. Increase opportunities for parishioners to volunteer
 - Develop an inventory of volunteers and potential volunteers
 - Be more strategic in matching volunteer skills and talents to tasks that require human resources
 - Ask people directly to help out with a specific task or program (face-to-face where possible)
3. Enhance the music program
 - Offer a youth choir at 11 am mass once a month – have children from the liturgy program participate

KEY DIRECTION: FOSTER SPIRITUALITY AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Facilitator: Jeanette Walsh; Recorder Michele Lawlor

Priorities:

1. Help us to understand our faith and what is distinctive about it
2. Help individuals with their spiritual growth and renewal
3. Continue to provide support for the Children's Liturgy Program

Suggested Focus Within Priorities:

1. Help us to understand our faith and what is distinctive about it
 - Offer more sessions with Fr. Carruthers
 - Have Fr. Browne as a resource person in liturgy
 - Offer a program that explores the intersection between science and religion/spirituality - possibly with the Sisters of Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice (MCEJ)
 - Provide opportunities for more in-depth discussion of what spirituality really means
 - Provide examples of how our faith is diverse and unique
 - Bible study: study scripture
 - Enhance engagement with the liturgy of the mass:
 - Identify what we should think about in advance of the readings
 - Print in the bulletin or email a summary of the readings for the coming weekend masses
 - Provide homilies that are relevant to our faith and everyday lives
2. Help individuals with their spiritual growth and renewal
 - Identify resources - Pope's Encyclicals, other resources including those from the archdiocese
 - Identify resource people - Fr. Carruthers, Fr. Bolton and Fr. Browne, as well as lay parishioners who have relevant experience
 - Make sure people know that priests are available to meet with them individually to help foster their spiritual growth
3. Continue to provide support for the Children's Liturgy Program
 - Continue to offer current programming
 - Offer mentors at masses for young adults
 - Have young people participate in various parts of the mass

KEY DIRECTION: SUPPORT SOCIAL JUSTICE
Facilitator: Sandy Gibbons; Recorder Yvonne MacGrath

Priorities:

1. Increase contributions to the food bank
2. Educate parishioners on existing social justice and outreach programs (CWL, MacMorran Centre, St. Anne's parish in Jamaica, Syrian refugee family, Mater Care, Pastoral Care)
3. Partner/coordinate with other social justice agencies in the archdiocese and broader community to offer programs

Suggested Focus Within Priorities:

1. Increase contributions to the food bank
 - Assign people to work together on this issue (2-3 volunteers)
 - Raise awareness of the food bank and its link to MacMorran Place through the bulletin and/or mention it from the altar
 - Make the food bank donation area and activity more visible
2. Educate parishioners on existing social justice and outreach programs
 - Set bench marks for activity levels/outcomes in our programs
 - Provide parishioners with regular updates on our programs and what they are achieving
 - Increase opportunities for more parishioners to become involved in doing something with one or more of the programs
 - Be clearer in drawing a connection between some of our existing programs (such as the hospitality program, Children's liturgy, Development and Peace) and social justice
3. Partner/coordinate with other social justice agencies in the archdiocese and broader community to offer programs
 - Connect with youth programs in particular
 - Allocate resources for both existing and selected new programs

KEY DIRECTION: COMMIT TO SUSTAINABILITY
Facilitator: Greg Doyle; Recorder Carmel Woodford

Priorities:

1. Optimize use of human resources
2. Continue to involve parishioners in the development of a strategic plan
3. Optimize use of material resources

Suggested Focus Within Priorities:

1. Optimize use of human resources
 - Mandate the Parish Council to run the parish
 - Develop succession plans and terms of office for committee members
 - Offer a Leadership Workshop to those who will be serving on Parish Council and key committees
2. Continue to involve parishioners in the development of a strategic plan
 - Develop an inventory of potential volunteers
3. Optimize use of material resources
 - Use Parish Hall for more activities
 - Disclose financial position of the parish – resources available

