

St. Mary's and St. Patrick's
Living Stones Planning Committee
Report
(September 6, 2020)

St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee Report
(Executive Summary)

The goal of this overall process is to make St. Mary's and St. Patrick's parishes more vibrant and in an even stronger position to better meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners. This process began several years ago with a self-assessment completed by Fr. Rocker. The purpose of that assessment was to identify parish strengths and those areas that need development. Appendix A includes a spreadsheet for St. Mary's and St. Patrick's based on materials submitted to the Living Stones Planning Committee by Fr. Rocker.

In December 2019, Bill Amoriell was asked to assume responsibility, as a volunteer, for the planning process for St. Mary's and St. Patrick's. It also included the responsibility for implementation of whatever plans were developed during the planning process. In preparation for the process, Fr. Rocker asked some parishioners, if they would serve on a planning committee. Bill met with those parishioners on December 16, 2019 at St. Mary's at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the need for planning and outline a possible process. The meeting was also designed to obtain feedback from the group. A calendar listing the activities and meetings held is included in Appendix B.

One of the major concerns of the initial group was the need to expand the committee to become more inclusive. To respond to that concern, announcements were placed in the church bulletins over the next couple of weeks, announcing the establishment of a planning committee and asking those parishioners interested in serving to volunteer. That process culminated on January 31, 2020 with the formation of the St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee that included 29 initial members. (See Appendix C for List of Initial Members)

The expanded St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee (Committee) started meeting on February 3rd at St. Mary's and February 5th at St. Patrick's. Members attended whichever meeting was more convenient for them.

The Committee was interested in securing feedback from the parishioners of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's, so a survey was developed that listed the areas previously identified as needing further development (See Appendix A). The parishioners, following Fr. Rocker's homily during the Masses on the weekend of February 8, ranked their top seven areas that they felt needed attention. The survey and results are included in Appendix E. There was also an opportunity at the end of the survey for parishioners to include additional areas not included on the original listing. (See Appendix F for the Additional Comments) It is worth noting here that 238 parishioners, ranging in age from 11 to 90, participated in submitting their feedback. Based on the survey results, the priorities were determined as follows:

Top Three:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Number 1 | Hospitality/Making People Feel Welcome |
| Number 2 | Home Visitation |
| Number 3 | Youth Ministry |
| Number 4 | Outreach to the Poor |
| Number 5 | Family Life |
| Number 6 | Outreach to Unchurched (Those Who Left the Church) |
| Number 7 | Adult Formation |
| Number 8 | Hospital Ministry |
| Number 9 | Website for Parish |
| Number 10 | Vocations |

It should also be noted that copies of the results from the parishioner surveys were made available to everyone and distributed after Masses in Potsdam and Colton during the weekend of February 29.

In order to address the top priorities, the Committee was divided into three subgroups (See Appendix D for Listing of Three Subgroups) that met via Zoom to discuss and develop ideas and recommendations for

their respective priority. When the process was completed, 62 recommendations were generated that covered the top six priorities. Those recommendations can be found in Appendix G. Given the time that elapsed since the beginning of this process as a result of the coronavirus and the fact that this is just the beginning of the overall process, it was decided to complete this phase of the Committee's work and move to implementation--a decision finalized on August 31, 2020.

The plan for the next phase of this process (implementation) is still developing and will be finalized over the next several weeks. The following general steps are under consideration:

1. Identify and prioritize the major areas that need to be addressed.
2. Once major areas are identified, develop an overall structure/plan for how to accomplish what needs to be done. The formation of subgroups from the parishioners with the responsibility of developing and implementing a specific plan for their area needs to occur. This may begin the establishment of "permanent" structures in the parishes that have the responsibility of carrying out and monitoring their specific charge.
3. Once an overall structure/plan is developed, consideration needs to be given to what resources, human and financial, are needed. This may require announcements and/or presentations during some of the Masses, so everyone knows the plan and what's needed. The Implementation Committee will need to go over the current financial status of the parishes and meet with the Finance Councils in determining how best to address the financial requirements of the plan. Once it is clear what resources, human and financial, are needed, a plan needs to be developed that addresses whatever will be required.

The above are some of the ideas being considered, but a comprehensive plan will be finalized over the next several weeks. It should also be noted that there will be periodic communications to all parishioners to make sure everyone knows what is being considered and to give everyone an opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions.

I hope this summary report is helpful in understanding the activities of the St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee over the past few months, as well as providing an outline of how we plan to proceed. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to call me at (315) 265-4850 or e-mail me at amoriewj@potdam.edu.

God Bless,
Bill Amoriell
Chair
St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee

APPENDIX A

Self-Assessment: St. Mary's in Potsdam
 (Note: Shaded items identify areas needing to be addressed.)

Parish Grouping: St. Mary's- Potsdam

Pastor: Fr. Stephen Rocker

Elements to Support	Yes or	Sufficient
Vibrant Parishes	No	Number?

Faith Formation Support Personnel:

Director Religious Educ.	Yes	
Adult Formation	Yes	?
Youth Minister		No
Music Minister	Yes	
Vocation Team	Yes	
Sacramental Prep.:	Yes	
Catechists	Yes	
EMHC		No
Outreach to Poor	Yes	?
Outreach to Unchurched	Yes	?

Elements to Support	Yes or	Sufficient
Vibrant Parishes	No	Number?

Faith/Community Formation Programming:

Religious Education	Yes	
Music Ministry	Yes	
<u>Sacramental Prep.:</u>		
Baptismal Preparation	Yes	

First Reconcil./First Euch.	Yes	
Marriage/Pre-Cana Prep.	Yes	
Confirmation Program	Yes	
Adult Formation	No	
Bereavement Ministry	Yes	
Vocations	Yes	
Family Life	No	
Youth Ministry	No	
Hospital Ministry		No
Home Visitation		No
Nursing Home Visits	n/a	
Outreach to Poor	No	
Food Pantry	Yes	
Outreach to Unchurched	No	
Prison Ministry	n/a	

Self-Assessment: St. Patrick's in Colton

Parish Grouping: St. Patrick's- Colton

Pastor: Fr. Stephen Rocker

Elements to Support	Yes or	Sufficient
Vibrant Parishes	No	Number?

Faith Formation Support Personnel:

Director Religious Educ.	Yes	
Adult Formation	No	
Youth Minister		No
Music Minister	Yes	
Vocation Team	?	
Sacramental Prep.:	Yes	

Catechists	Yes	
EMHC	Yes	No
Outreach to Poor	Yes	
Outreach to Unchurched		No

Elements to Support Vibrant Parishes	Yes or No	Sufficient Number?
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Faith/Community Formation Programming:

Religious Education	Yes	
Music Ministry	Yes	
<u>Sacramental Prep.:</u>		
Baptismal Preparation	Yes	
First Reconcil./First Euch.	Yes	
Marriage/Pre-Cana Prep.	Yes	
Confirmation Program	Yes	
Adult Formation	Yes	?
Bereavement Ministry	Yes	
Vocations	Yes	?
Family Life	Yes	?
Youth Ministry		No
Hospital Ministry	Yes	No
Home Visitation	Yes	
Nursing Home Visits	n/a	
Outreach to Poor	Yes	?
Food Pantry		
Outreach to Unchurched		?
Prison Ministry	n/a	

APPENDIX B

Calendar of Meetings/Events:

- Dec. 16 (6:00 p.m.) Meeting at St. Mary's Church with initial planning group established by Fr. Rocker. Purpose: Cover what brought us to where we are today and seek group's feedback on composition of the Planning Committee and on the initial plan. Group recommended that we enlarge and make more diverse the St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee. As a result, group was expanded from about a dozen to 29.
- Weekend of January 18th and Weekend of January 25th--St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Parishes: Bulletin Announcement/Meetings Announcing establishment of Planning Committee and asking for volunteers from parishioners to serve.
- January 31: Finalize Selection of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee:
- February 1-2: Open Meetings after each Mass seeking input from parishioners on needs that should be considered in the planning process.
- February 3 (St. Mary's) and February 5 (St. Patrick's) at 6:00 p.m.: Meeting of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee
- February 8-9 Weekend Masses: Conduct Parishioner Surveys
- February 25: Review parishioner survey results w/Fr. Rocker.
- February 29-March 1: Distribute results of Parishioner surveys to all parishioners.
- Coronavirus Strikes and Cancels Group Future In-person Meetings
- March 18, 6:00 p.m.: Skype meeting with the three subgroup facilitators to discuss guidelines for working with subgroups.
- By June 1: Each of the three subgroups met via Zoom to discuss and develop individual priority recommendations.
- June 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.: Zoom Meeting of entire committee to review, discuss, and finalize action recommendations/ideas submitted by each of the three subcommittees.
- July 20, 2020: Sent Action Items to Whole Committee for review and feedback.
- July 30: Finalized Action Items and Send to All Committee Members Requesting their ranking of the items in order to develop a priority order.
- August 24: Sent final list of action items listed in order of priority based on feedback from committee. Also sent matrix documenting coverage of top 6 priorities by action items proposed by the committee.
- August 24: Seek feedback of committee on whether or not we should disband and finalize our report or continue our process.
- August 31: Officially Disband St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee.

- September: Meet with Fr. Rucker to submit and discuss the Planning Process Report.

APPENDIX C

St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee (Initial Committee Members)

St. Mary's

Pastoral Council Members:

Deacon Rich Burns – nt2w@earthlink.net
Jennifer Balaban – jen.balaban@gmail.com
Eric Cragg- ecragg@ccsdk12.org
Joe Digiovanna – digiovjj@potdam.edu
Pat Karis- pkoliverio@hotmail.com
Nancy Mucenski- nmucensk@twcnny.rr.com
Phil Shatraw – pshatraw@gmail.com (Florida: Jan. 27-March 6)
Barbara Short – btabshort2@gmail.com (Florida: Feb.-March)
Bill Simmons- bill.a.simmons@gmail.com (yes)

Others:

John Andrikut No E-mail
 Phone: 315-265-2815
Kathy Burns – burnsdesignstudio@earthlink.net
Maeana Cragg- maeanac@gmail.com
Conner Cummings – campusministrysm@gmail.com
Bob Farrington bobfarr1155@outlook.com
Mary Farrington-- maryfarr1155@msn.com
Joshua Fontana-- fontanj@clarkson.edu
Phillip Gennarelli-- pgennarelli@firstpowerenergy.net
Rose Preston – rpreston8@twcnny.rr.com
Suzanne Smith – smith.suzanne04@gmail.com
Steve Tartaglia stephen.tartaglia@aim.com
Bill Todd wtodd@mwcsk12.org
Sarah Towler towlerse@gmail.com

St. Patrick's

Pastoral Council Members:

Danielle Edwards- dedwards@cpcs.us
Connie Hatch-Young- stpatoffice@gmail.com & conniehatchyoung@gmail.com
Linda MacDougall – lmacdougall1@twcnny.rr.com

Others:

Bill Amoriell amoriewj@potdam.edu
Molly Amoriell mamoriell@twcnny.rr.com
Devon Sutton- devonsutton@gmail.com
Liz Tarbox – formationstp@gmail.com

APPENDIX D

Subcommittees

St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee Meeting

Hospitality/Making People Who Come Feel Welcome:

Kathy Burns (Facilitator) (burnsdesignstudio@earthlink.net)
Eric Cragg (ecragg@ccsdk12.org)
Mary Farrington (maryfarr1155@msn.com)
Rose Preston (rpreston8@twcnny.rr.com)
Bill Simmons (bill.a.simmons@gmail.com)
Devon Sutton (Scribe) (devonsutton@gmail.com)
John Andrikut no e-mail

Home Visitation--Visiting Those Confined to Their Homes:

Conner Cummings (campusministrysm@gmail.com)
Joe Digiovanna (digiovjj@potdam.edu)
Danielle Edwards (dedwards@cpcs.us)
Bob Farrington (bobfarr1155@outlook.com)
Connie Hatch-Young (conniehatchyoung@gmail.com)
Nancy Mucenski (nmucensk@twcnny.rr.com)
Barbara Short (btabsshort2@gmail.com)
Suzanne Smith (Facilitator) (smith.suzanne04@gmail.com)
Liz Tarbox (Scribe) (formationstp@gmail.com)
Bill Todd (wtodd@mwcsk12.org)

Programming for Our Youth:

Molly Amoriell (Scribe) (mamoriell@twcnny.rr.com)
Jen Balaban (jen.balaban@gmail.com)
Rich Burns (Facilitator) (nt2w@earthlink.net)
Maeanna Cragg (maeanac@gmail.com)
Joshua Fontana (fontanj@clarkson.edu)
Phil Shatraw (pshatraw@gmail.com)
Steve Tartaglia (stephen.tartaglia@aim.com)
Sarah Towler (towlerse@gmail.com)

APPENDIX E

St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee

Parishioner Survey Results
February 2020
St. Mary's (Potsdam) and St. Patrick's (Colton)

Parishioner Survey:

The following is the survey that was distributed to the parishioners of St. Mary's parish in Potsdam and St. Patrick's parish in Colton during the February 8-9 weekend Masses. It is being included here to refresh everyone's memory of the survey that was completed, as well as for those who did not see the survey, to make sure they understand what is being referred to in the summary report to follow.

St. Mary's & St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee

Instructions:

We want to grow stronger as parish communities. Please rank the following areas of need to indicate, which areas you feel are the most important in meeting our needs. Rank your top 6 areas of interest: ranking your top interest as #1, second interest as #2, down to your sixth area of interest as #6.

Rank Top 6	Areas of Need
	Programming for Adult Spiritual Development
	Programming to Strengthen Family Spiritual Development
	Visiting Those Who Are Confined to Their Homes
	Hospital Ministry
	Hospitality/Making People Who Come Feel Welcome
	Outreach to the Poor
	Outreach to Those Who Left the Church
	Improving Parish Website
	Strengthening Vocations to the Priesthood or Religious Life
	Programming for Our Youth
	Add other areas you feel important or ideas you have to enhance parish life (Write on back, if necessary.):

Parishioner Survey--Summary Report:

Before the results are listed, a brief explanation of the methodology used is in order. Two different scores were tallied for each of the areas of need listed in the survey: (1) simple count of the number of parishioners who included each need within their "top six." and (2) a weighted score that tried to differentiate somewhat from needs that received a ranking of 1 (highest) down to a ranking of 6. To accomplish this, weighted scores were assigned as follows:

<u>Ranking Of:</u>	<u>Received a Weighted Score of:</u>
1	6
2	5
3	4
4	3
5	2
6	1

Again, the weighted differentiation among the rankings was done in an effort to more clearly show, which needs were deemed by the parishioners as the most important and so on.

Overall Summary Statement:

Number of Parishioners Responding: There were 238 parishioners, ranging from 11 years old to 90 years old, who submitted a survey.

Areas of Need Identified as Top Priority: First, it needs to be reiterated that all needs listed are important and need to be addressed. However, since we are unable to address all needs simultaneously, we needed to identify those needs that parishioners feel need to be addressed first, second, third, and so on.

According to the survey results, the following "areas of need" achieved the following rankings:

<u>Priority:</u>	<u>Weighted Score:</u>	<u>Number Who "Voted" for Need:</u>
<u>TOP THREE:</u>		
Number 1 Hospitality/Making People Feel Welcome:	676	171
Number 2 Home Visitation:	656	168
Number 3 Youth Ministry:	617	167
<u>NEXT THREE:</u>		
Number 4 Outreach to the Poor	606	162
Number 5 Family Life	461	137
Number 6 Outreach to Unchurched (Those Who Left the Church)	458	133
<u>REMAINING:</u>		
Number 7 Adult Formation	439	124
Number 8 Hospital Ministry	383	113
Number 9 Website for Parish	137	86
Number 10 Vocations	317	63

There did not seem to be a pattern that correlated with age.

Comments Submitted: There were 50 comments added that ranged widely across a number of areas. While there was no pattern of comments present, areas that were mentioned by two or more parishioners include the following:

1. More Involvement of the Youth in Mass and Other Church Events.
2. More Involvement of a Variety of Parishioners in All Church Activities: lectors, singers, Mass, etc.
3. More Up-Beat/Up-Lifting Music.
4. Latin Masses Available on Days Other Than Sunday: Holy Days of Obligation, mid-week, etc.
5. Bring parishes together More Often: e.g.: potluck suppers, game nights, picnics, ice-cream socials, card games at night, etc.
6. Parish Hall at St. Mary's.
7. Social Justice Efforts: outreach to the poor, disadvantaged, environmental concerns, people marginalized by society, etc.
8. More Home Visitations (Those confined to their homes.).
9. More Complete Information Provided in weekend bulletins.
10. Increase Lay Leadership.
11. Form Support Groups: Those Who Lost Someone Close to Them, Those Suffering from Various Illnesses, etc.

The above rankings/feedback, including comments, from parishioners give the St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee the information it needs to proceed. During a March meeting, the committee will discuss recommendations and options to address the top three priorities listed above. The April meeting will address the next three priorities and the Pastoral Councils of each parish should pick up and address recommendations/options to address needs 7 through 10.

A complete list of all comments, along with a copy of this report, will be provided as a bulletin insert and left either in the back of the church (St. Mary's) or on a table in the entry-space (St. Patrick's).

Feedback to Parishioners:

As plans are developed, in accordance with the priorities identified from the results of the parishioner surveys, periodic updates will be provided. If you have any questions about the information in this report, please do not hesitate to call Bill Amoriell, Chair of the St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee, at (315) 265-4850 or e-mail him at amoriewj@potdam.edu.

Your interest and support of this process and effort are much appreciated.

God Bless,
Bill Amoriell
Chair, St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee

APPENDIX F

COMPLETE LIST OF PARISHIONER COMMENTS

Parishioner Survey Comments
February 2020

1. Let more people to assist in setting-up for Mass and other things.
2. Support Adoption
3. Make people, families welcome. Baptize without all the classes.
4. Early notice of Christian Formation e.g. July & Aug. in Bulletin.
5. Fiscal responsibility/good Stewardship
6. Involvement of children from birth.
7. Thank you for doing this.
8. Give more people an opportunity to do things: readers, getting altar ready, greeters, singers...
9. Focus on those threatened by current immigration policies.
10. Instruction from the pulpit.
11. Online Catholic truth vs. speculation.
12. A Latin Mass on Holy Days of Obligation.
13. Use of meeting space at St. Mary's to schedule opportunities for retired adults to socialize: scrabble, bridge, etc.
14. I would like to have a Latin Mass on Holy Days of Obligation and have a mid-week Latin Mass.
15. Formation of "Souls in Purgatory" Prayer Group.
16. A "reference" directory of Catholic/Christian Therapists.
17. Have times for college students to socialize with our youth.
18. Bring parish together more often through events, suppers, after Mass, etc.
19. Parish-wide activities (sense of community) Parish Center
20. Be supportive to divorcees--make them feel welcome.
21. Less talk about money and fewer second collections.
22. Parish Hall before another year goes by.
23. Make it more desirable for young people.
24. Sometimes it is hard to hear.
25. Music: More upbeat-folk
26. More communion ministers.
27. Encourage parishioners from both parishes to attend functions/activities.
28. Musical liturgical celebrations which are uplifting and gather people together.
29. #1--St. Mary's Parish Center
30. Welcome people who are refugees/new immigrants regardless of faith.
31. Religious Explanation (Christ Happened)
32. More understanding language.
33. Different music choices. More well-known upbeat to get people to participate.

34. Strengthening interest in the Mass. Less chants and more uplifting music.
35. Evangelizing to the community.
36. Social justice efforts.
37. Environmental concerns.
38. I would love to see some parish outreach to the mentally disabled.
39. Public processions.
40. Field trips for the youth.
41. Training to visit those confined to home & bring communion.
42. Bulletin would suggest nothing is happening in our church.
43. If adults/parents are not growing in their faith, how can they nurture growth in their children's faith life?
44. Improve information in bulletin regarding church meetings on weekly basis.
45. Need more altar servers and communion servers.
46. More social gatherings to draw parishioners together: e.g., potluck suppers, picnics, ice-cream socials, card games at night, etc.
47. Liturgy Committee (Including music)
48. Increase Lay Leadership
49. Music Ministry
50. Support Groups: lost love-one, illness, etc.

APPENDIX G

St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Living Stones Planning Committee

Action Items/Recommendations

Hospitality

Highest Priority:

1. Create a framework for the approach to hospitality.
2. Get greeters for all entryways at St. Mary's and St. Patrick's and provide adequate training for all greeters.
3. Update the website and make it easy for a new person to get important information.
4. Consider forming a Communication Committee, with a coordinator (perhaps paid) to manage communication throughout the parishes.
5. Include youth as greeters.
6. Post a monthly calendar of events in the church foyer.
7. Develop welcome packets to be given out by greeters to new people before Masses. Also include welcome packets on tables in the vestibule.
8. Consider significant enhancement of communication throughout the parishes. Consider a comprehensive CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system. Should Flocknote be considered for St. Mary's and St. Patrick's?
9. Seek ways to involve new parishioners in parish life.
10. Create activities to help younger community members make friends with other younger parishioners.
11. Consider coffee hours after mass for people to get to know new church members.
12. Communicate once a month through e-mails, Facebook, and/or newsletters, some of the special events or faith activities that are occurring during that time.
13. Develop and print pew cards for inclusion in all pews. (See subcommittee report for details.)
14. Consider offering "introductory" training to help attract individuals considering various committees or ministries within the parishes. This could be used as individuals express an interest in becoming involved in various ministries and for new members joining the parish. (See subcommittee report for details.)
15. Create service opportunities that are open to the community that benefit the community; e.g.: someone who knows how to fix or build things, that person could teach younger/others.
16. Hospitality may require a Volunteer Coordinator.
17. Schedule fellowship potluck dinners once a quarter that are open to the community.
18. Welcome visitors to the parish: parents weekend, sporting events, etc. Father Rocker could welcome visitors at beginning of Mass.

Second Highest Priority:

19. Develop and distribute a list of all parishioners willing to be included with contact information. (See subcommittee report for details.)
20. Continue parish Facebook page. Fill it with posts of actual parish events and people.
21. Develop clear signage in the church so that new people know where things like the bathrooms, parish hall, confessional, etc. are located. Post floor plans in convenient places in the church.
22. Consider potluck dinners after some evening/afternoon Masses, as well as after some feast-day Masses.
23. Consider current format of bulletin versus a newsletter format. Could have a monthly newsletter that is separate from bulletin. Make hard copy newsletters available for parishioners who do not use the internet.

Third Highest Priority:

24. Extend personal invitations to people to join coffee hours, dinners, group events, etc.
25. Post Mass times for Easter and Christmas weeks in advance online and in bulletin.
26. Post the homily online after Mass.
27. Talk to the disenfranchised to see what's missing.

Home Visitation

Highest Priority:

1. Consider the creation of a Home Visitation Ministry dedicated to caring and ministering to one another outside the walls of our church building. This would include those in nursing homes or hospitals, those unable to leave their homes or who have limited mobility due to health or weather concerns, those grieving the loss of a loved one, those who are socially and spiritually isolated, and those living alone.
2. Consider the need for lay leadership to oversee a Home Visitation Committee.
3. Consider visits/phone calls to the lonely, assisting with such things as preparing for a funeral, praying together, as well as day-to-day practical aid with groceries and rides to appointments and church functions/services.
4. Consider the creation of a Communications Committee/Ministry that would collect and disseminate information concerning all aspects of the parish life. (Refer to "Homebound Subcommittee Report"--p. 7--for more details on the creation of Communications Ministry.)

Second Highest Priority:

5. Consider how to facilitate and better coordinate communication between and among ministries.
6. Consider a way that the two parishes could work together and not as separate entities.
7. Consider development of an information listing that would include current volunteers and people being served.

Third Highest Priority:

8. Consider ways to reach out to people during times of crisis, such as our current pandemic.
9. Consider going beyond those in our parishes and include others who are isolated or alone.

Programming for Youth

Highest Priority:

1. Develop a mission statement with a clearly defined vision for youth ministry. Consider creation of a phrase that defines that vision (e.g. "Christ should be the center of our lives.")
2. Build more parent involvement in faith formation. Consider programs to enhance family life and growing faith in their family.
3. Elicit programming ideas/activities directly from the youth.
4. Continue to support the current active youth group under the leadership of Maeana Cragg.
5. Consider ways to enhance communication. Need to "get the word out--lighting a fire in the youth and their families."
6. Consider a monthly activity for youth in St. Mary's and St. Patrick's. This could include such activities as discussion groups, service project, fun activity, confession, caroling, cards, gifts at Mayfield, Chinese New Year's Party, Valentine's Couple time, square dancing, etc.
7. Become familiar with the Diocesan Vision for Parish Youth Ministry.
8. Increase involvement of children in worship services. Provide a program that offers younger children a different Liturgy of the Word.
9. Allow older students to share what they have learned with younger students by leading activities and/or lessons in the Faith Formation classes.
10. Youth programs need to be based on the foundation (building blocks) of (1) service, (2) social, and (3) worship. Service projects are important for all age levels.
11. Identify resources in the diocese: people and materials.
12. Consider need for a "regional" coordinator whose cost would be shared by parishes within the region. This would have to be discussed and supported by pastors within the region being considered.
13. Consider ways to consolidate or join together various youth groups within the diocese. Plan activities with other groups around us to allow our youth to network.
14. Consider having one Mass a month be the children's Mass.
15. Consider an Apologetics program component. (John Martignoni guide might be useful. He is the creator of the Bible Christian Society, <https://www.biblechristiansociety.com/>, which has a great deal of free Apologetics resources.) This would ground youth with age appropriate resources to help them understand their faith and defend it.
16. Consider ways to expand the Youth Program through the involvement of youth in music and art activities.
17. Explore what other parishes in the diocese are doing for their youth.

Second Highest Priority:

18. Determine the number of children currently in our parishes.
19. Utilize college students who can serve as mentors. (Must use Virtus.) Consider having college students be "All Stars" in the faith.
20. Incorporate retreats for youth into the program.
21. Consider ways to expand on ideas of current program.
22. Consider ways to help youth appreciate God's Creation through an understanding of the Holy Father's encyclical, *Laudato Si*, and how to live it through engaging service projects.
23. Integrate technology into faith formation.

Third Highest Priority:

24. Incorporate reading into the program. Perhaps a Book Club designed to help youth develop the habit of reading and discussing spiritual books.
25. Consider having youth group members doing cards for homebound.
26. Do a "Trunk or Treat" program incorporating All Saints Day into it.

