

QUEEN OF MARTYRS

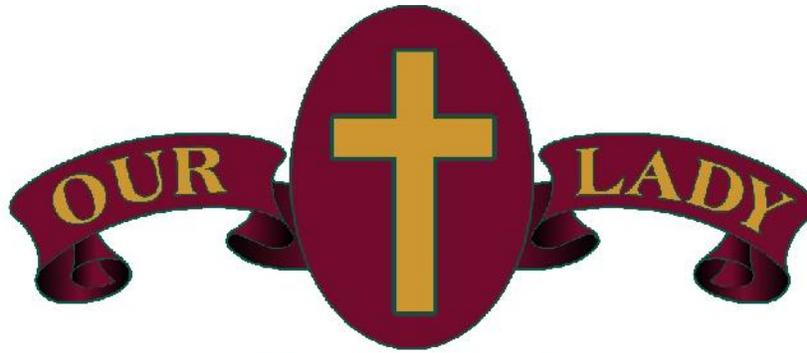


2016-2021

Five Year Parish Pastoral Plan

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QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I am able to present our Five Year Pastoral Plan for Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish. The document is the culmination of work by staff, volunteers along with our two leadership councils: The Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council. It is also the product of our three parish assemblies and surveys that began in January 2015 and provides a direction for us as a family of faith for the next five years.

Many of the goals and objectives are based on the observations and the *current* reality in our community. No one knows how life may change over the next five years or what new challenges we may face. As a result, it may be necessary to edit, revise or update this Plan as we move forward. The staff, pastoral council and finance council will conduct periodic reviews to ensure that the Plan is still relevant to the lives of our parishioners and community.

Thank you to the staff, pastoral and finance councils for their leadership and input. Thanks to Rev. James Morse for organizing and facilitating our Parish Pastoral Council mission and strategic goals. And a thank you to Fr. David Frederici and the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, Pocasset, Massachusetts for their inspiration and template to present this pastoral plan.

Exciting things are happening in our parish and there is more to come!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel W. Lacroix'.

Rev. Daniel W. Lacroix
Pastor



DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER
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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DECREE

Having carefully considered the pastoral care of the faithful throughout the Diocese, and having studied the resources of Saint Stephen Parish in Attleboro and Saint Mary Parish in Seekonk, and having consulted the Pastor of Saint Stephen Parish and of Saint Mary Parish, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Fall River, I hereby decree:

That Saint Stephen Parish in Attleboro is suppressed;

That Saint Mary Parish in Seekonk is suppressed;

That the new Parish of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs be erected with the worship site at Saint Mary Church;

That the territorial boundaries of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish are the same as those of the former Saint Stephen Parish and of the former Saint Mary Parish;

That the canonical registers of Saint Stephen Parish and of Saint Mary Parish be maintained by the Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish.

That the financial and real goods and obligations of Saint Stephen Parish and of Saint Mary Parish be assumed by Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish; and

That Saint Stephen Church, Saint Stephen Rectory, Saint Stephen Cemetery, Saint Mary Church, Saint Mary Rectory, and St. Mary Parish Center, become assets of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish.

This Decree shall be effective at 12:01am on Sunday, the twenty-third day of May, in the year two thousand and ten.

Given in Fall River this thirtieth day of April in the year two thousand and ten:

+ George W. Coleman

Bishop of Fall River

Attest:

Michael K. McManus

Chancellor

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Church

MISSION

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs is a welcoming Sacramental community that joyfully gathers around the Lord's table to love and empower God's holy people, so that they may better serve one another as steward disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vision

Be the eyes, hands & feet of Christ here on earth.

INTRODUCTION

For nearly six years, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs has existed as a new Parish. The Parish's role has been to assist the people of God as they grow in their worship of God, develop a greater knowledge and understanding of their faith while servicing the needs, spiritual and otherwise, of our brothers and sisters not only within the Community of Seekonk but also in Rehoboth, Attleboro and Pawtucket. This is possible through a collaborative effort between clergy and our laity.

In 2015, we engaged in a Parish Convocation thus providing an opportunity to reconnect to who we are as a Catholic Parish,

- connect to our mission (see above),
- identify the needs and challenges of the Parish and greater community.

This Parish Pastoral Plan contains various strategies for preparing us for the next five years as a vibrant Parish community.

Implementing the Plan will once again rely on the strength and collaboration between our laity and clergy as well as between ministries and age groups.

OLQM Quick Stats

Founded: May 23, 2010

Registered Families: 1869

Children in Faith Formation: 215

Average Mass Attendance: 739

Values

Christocentric: The teachings of Jesus the Christ is our central reference point.

Faith: We believe in the Gospel of Jesus the Christ and the Catholic Spiritual Tradition. Faith brings us together. We share common ground in our ultimate concern for human dignity and we work together to achieve our mission.

Right to Life and Human Dignity: Our True Self is who we are, and always have been in God. All life in God's creation is sacred. We affirm the dignity of each person. We believe that all people, regardless of their faith choices, have worth and are deserving of respect and compassion.

Inclusion: We embrace inclusion and serve people of all races, ethnicities, cultures, languages, genders, ages, socioeconomics, physical challenges, sexual orientations, backgrounds or life experiences. We invite all who identify with our mission and values to join us in working toward our vision. We interact with humility, in a spirit of community-building, to understand and learn together.

Self-Determination/ Personal Agency: We believe in supporting those who use our ministries to take responsibility for their lives and make choices that will support their health and well-being.

Service as duty: In Hebrew, the word for the acts we call charity is *Tzedakah*. The root of *Tzedakah* is justice, obligation, and duty to do what is right. We serve and act in the spirit of obligation to better our world Community for all especially the poor and marginalized.

Communication, Transparency and Trust: We believe in honesty and integrity in all our interactions and work to create and maintain trust with our parishioners, among staff and volunteers and with the greater community.

Sustainable Development: We believe in long term environmental, economic and social accountability and strive to practice responsible stewardship in these areas whenever possible.

Community: The way we work together matters. Our service is designed to build community, to be individually empowering, and delivered with kindness and compassion for giver and receiver alike.

Stewardship: We create opportunities for people to share their time, talent and treasure for the benefit of our community and for their own fulfillment. Volunteers will always be our core workforce.

What We Do As A Catholic Parish

Build Community
 Evangelize (Needs a lot of Work)
 Faith Formation
 Support Families
 Pastoral Care
 Pray and Celebrate together (Worship)
 Provide Temporalities (Administration)
 Grow our Youth and Young Adults

OUR PRESENT AND OUR FUTURE

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs activities, events, ministries, are grounded in our mission for they describe our purpose as a Parish community. As a community, we must also have a better understanding of who we are and who we represent.

It is estimated that there are approximately 5330 Catholics living within the Parish. Our current or parish census declares 1,869 registered families, some of whom live outside the aforementioned boundaries. The number of children in our Faith Formation Programs (grades 1-9) averages 215 annually.

Emerging Themes from the Parish Assemblies

- *Become a more Spirit-filled, welcoming community of faith;*
- *Strengthen our programs so that they focus on and include families;*
- *Increased presence in the wider community;*
- *Invite, train and support volunteers for various ministries;*
- *Outreach to new parishioners;*
- *Cultivate families and young adults to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the Mass;*
- *Invest in a personal life-long faith journey*

The Diocese of Fall River requires parishes to conduct Mass count once per year. Our current Mass attendance is approximately 647-822 per week.

The median age of Seekonk is estimated at the mid-40s with an average income \$56,364. Our parish has an average age of 58. These numbers indicate that the majority of our community is made up of blue-collar wage earners as well as a significant number of retirees.

As we proceed with any future planning, it is imperative that we keep in mind the aforementioned statistics so that we can strive to set new goals and objectives to reach the population we are not seeing at Mass.

In three Parish Assembly gatherings of 30 parishioners of various ages, as well as three parish surveys and one specific faith formation survey along with the work of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Council, several goals, outcomes, needs and challenges were raised and will be discussed in the following pages. Over 60 hours have been spent developing this strategic plan.

YOUR ROLE AS A PARISHIONER

When the Mass ends, we are sent forth to "...go in peace," or to "go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life." These words encourage us to leave Mass and carry our faith with us for it is a call to put our faith into action. But actions vary from person to person depending on his/her gifts and talents.

As you take the time to read through this plan, prayerfully consider (discern) where your gifts and talents lie but also those of your family and the greater Parish community. Here are some tips:

- **Read and review** the outcomes and goals in search of opportunities where you can best contribute to the life of the Parish;
- **Pray** for insights where you can share your time and talent;
- **Discern** how best to proceed through consultation with your family and/or Parish Staff;
- **Act on/participate** in one or Outcomes.

Answering your baptismal call requires not only an openness to the Holy Spirit in your life, but a self-awareness of the contributions (non-financial) you can and are willing to make to the life of the Parish. Be open to the possibility that someone else may see gifts and talents in you that you may not even recognize!

As a family of faith, baptized into the Body of Christ, we can all strive to enhance and enrich our Parish ministries as well as establish new ones that address the needs uncovered in the survey and convocation. But we cannot do it alone. Like the Body of Christ, we are a body with many parts and for those parts to function, we must collaborate and support one another.

This Pastoral Plan will provide several opportunities to fully live in the grace we received by virtue of our Baptism.

"Among the baptized, all of whom are called to serve the mission of the Church, some experience a further specific call to lay ecclesial ministry. The call may come in a dramatic moment. More often, it comes over time, as the person grows—within the community of faith—in love for God and a desire to do his will."

~United States Conference of
Catholic Bishops,
Co-Workers in the Vineyard, p. 29, © 2005.

Read ~ Pray ~ Discern ~ Act

OUTCOME ONE – COMMUNITY

“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”

~Matthew 18:20

BACKGROUND

Our community is blessed to be a friendly and welcoming one. Since 2015, we have implemented fellowship after the 8:30AM Sunday Mass thus providing an environment where parishioners of all ages and families of all dynamics can gather to chat and hopefully get to know fellow parishioners. But with any area, there is always room for improvement.

The following are the five goals that were identified.

GOALS	ACTION ITEMS
Welcoming Receptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome new parishioners and families of newly baptized into the Parish Community with a quarterly social event (TBD). • Invite families who move into our area to consider OLQM.
Hospitality¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule regular dinners open to all parishioners. • Schedule coffee & donuts after the 8:30AM Sunday Mass and possibly the 10AM Sunday Mass when a children’s Mass is celebrated. • Annual appreciation BBQ for our ministry volunteers.
Mass Collectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite and train parishioners to become collectors for weekend Masses. • Crate captains or “an in charge usher” for each mass to select, supervise and take responsibility of the collection into the locked drop box.
Birthday/Anniversary Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail birthday cards to the following Parish groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sick and Homebound • Mail anniversary cards to the following Parish groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One-year anniversary of Baptism ○ Significant wedding anniversaries
Name Tags	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name tags for Greeters, Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council members:

Please take the time to Pray, Discern and Act on your time, gifts and talents. In what way can you serve your parish and help further the above goals? List it below.

¹ At the time of this publication, an Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Events Team had been created

OUTCOME TWO – EVANGELIZATION

“We must evangelize because the Lord Jesus commanded us to do so. He gave the Church the unending task of evangelizing as a restless power, to stir and to stimulate all its actions until all nations have heard his Good News and until every person has become his disciple.”

~ Go and Make Disciples of All Nations, paragraph # 28 (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

BACKGROUND

Most Catholics struggle with the term “evangelization” while others are not sure what it is. Evangelization means “to bring the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself.”²

How we go about evangelizing the greater community differs greatly from the methods used by the early Church. The following are the four goals that were identified.

GOALS	ACTION ITEMS
Videos/Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create videos uploaded to You tube. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recruit volunteers of all ages & ministries to participate ○ 5-10 minutes in length with various subject matter (i.e. catechesis, ministry/apostolate highlights; faith; and current events). • Increase the Parish’s presence in the following through more regular updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facebook and other social media opportunities ○ Web site ○ Live stream masses through the internet for our homebound.
Trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish small faith communities with Evangelization as the primary goal. • Train a core group of volunteers to facilitate small groups. (In preparation for any RENEW program.)
Quarterly Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In digital format emailed to parishioners or in hard print, “Pen & Sword” will focus on personal stories and thoughts, photos and happenings of what occurred in the parish in the previous 3 months.
Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish and train a Core team of RCIA Catechists and sponsors. • To make known within our community the opportunity of a process to receive the sacraments of initiation for non-Catholics/unbaptized.
Ecumenism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to other neighboring faith communities to establish a yearly prayer service for Christian Unity held during the week of Christian Unity traditionally celebrated in January.

Please take the time to Pray, Discern and Act on your time, gifts and talents. In what way can you serve your parish and help further the above goals? List it below.

² Go and Make Disciples of All Nations, paragraph #10.

OUTCOME THREE – FAITH FORMATION

“When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.”

~1 Corinthians 13:11-12

BACKGROUND

Ask yourself the following question, “Do I have an eighth grade understanding and relationship with God?” If you answered yes, you probably are familiar with either the *Baltimore Catechism* or CCD. As Catholics it imperative that we must strengthen our personal faith before we can share that faith with others – including our own families. Thus, faith formation is a lifelong journey that grows as we do and matures with our life experiences.

The following are the six goals that were identified to help strengthen our Faith Formation program.

GOALS	ACTION ITEMS
Ongoing Faith Enrichment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer a seasonal speaker series (i.e. Lenten or Fall). • Offer a monthly Bible Breakfast to increase knowledge of Scripture • Organize small faith community of catechesis to take place in the home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish a list of parishioners willing to host in-home groups. ○ Identify, train and CORI volunteers to facilitate groups.
Children’s Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Mass available for Level 1-9 and not just Level 2. Homily to be Catechetical in approach to work in tandem with Faith Formation program.
Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and train a core team of adults to facilitate Children’s Liturgy during a monthly Sunday 10AM Mass for ages 3-5.
Faith Formation (Gr. 1-9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a whole family catechesis for our home study parents (mandatory) and encourage all families within our program to attend. • Encourage increased Mass participation by Faith Formation Families. • Revise and Restructure the program to emphasize the family as the Domestic Church³ • Service projects to be included in Level 5-9 Curriculum.
Respect Life Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a CORE Respect Life Team. • Offer informative and service based opportunities to promote a culture of life.
Vacation Bible School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people ages 5-12 attend three morning sessions during the summer 9AM-12:30PM Each day is centered around a Bible Verse. It includes game time, activity time, craft time, music, prayer, interactive videos. Ending with hamburgers and hotdogs on the last morning

³ The program is currently under review by the Faith Formation Staff.

Please take the time to Pray, Discern and Act on your time, gifts and talents. In what way can you serve your parish and help further the Faith Formation goals? List it below.

OUTCOME FOUR – FAMILIES

“The Christian Family is ordinarily the first experience of the Christian community and the primary environment for growth in faith. Because it is the church of the home, the family provides a unique locus [particular position] for catechesis.”

~ National Directory for Catechesis, pp. 100 - 101 (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

BACKGROUND

Our Church documents tell us that parents are the “first preachers of the faith to their children.”⁴ Families thus become the very first Christian witness for it is their lived experience of faith that help guide the children in their faith journey. However, many families, no matter the dynamic, may find it difficult connecting faith to home; more importantly a relationship with Jesus at the Eucharistic Table.

The following are the goals that were identified to help journey with our families in the Catholic faith.

GOALS	ACTION ITEMS
Faith & Spiritual Enrichment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage active participation in their child’s faith formation development.⁵ • Provide opportunities for parents to gather to discuss various formation topics. • Offer on-site retreats and days of reflection specifically designed for parents. • Help families connect the Eucharistic Table to the Family Table. • Provide speaker opportunities to enhance their personal/family lives.
Vocation Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote vocations through a dedicated team of men and women. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weekly Adoration. ○ Vocation Awareness contest.
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect newly married couples and families with newly baptized children to the larger Parish Community. • Provide various family events. • Specify various resources available to the family.

Please take the time to Pray, Discern and Act on your time, gifts and talents. In what way can you serve your parish and help further the above goals? List it below.

⁴ Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), section 11. Promulgated by Pope Paul VI, November 21, 1964.

⁵ The Faith Formation Staff is developing a new grade 1-7 program to better involve families.

OUTCOME FIVE – PASTORAL CARE

“Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those were being saved.”

~Acts 2:46-47

BACKGROUND

Pastoral Care may be a new term to many in the Parish. But is a concept rooted in the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching. The U.S. Bishops define the Ministry of Pastoral Care as “a compassionate presence in imitation of Jesus’ care of people, especially those who were hurting and in need.”⁶

There are many areas of need in which our Parish can help. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society does great work in the name of Jesus; yet more can be done. The following are the four goals that were identified.

GOALS	ACTION ITEMS
Staff Presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase staff visibility during Sunday Masses and significant parish Liturgical celebrations and social functions. • To have the staff envision their positions as ministry and not as a job. • To reevaluate staffing needs to the present mission and vision of the parish.
Homebound Visitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower laity to conduct visits through a Visitation Program facilitated and followed up by a staff member.
Parish Nurses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene a group of volunteer nurses from the Parish community to implement and organize a parish nursing program. • Schedule regular blood pressure clinics, etc. in the Parish Center throughout the year.
Service to Those in Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue fostering an ongoing relationship with financial and volunteer support to provide emergency and short term human support to those in need through our Parish Conference of the St. Vincent De Paul Society. • To formalize a relationship with Doorways, Inc., a community supported food pantry in <u>The North School</u>, to provide food for those in need. To assist their mission through volunteer support from the Parish.

⁶ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Renewing the Vision, p.42. ©1997.

Please take the time to Pray, Discern and Act on your time, gifts and talents. In what way can you serve your parish and help further the Pastoral Care goals? List it below.

OUTCOME SIX – PRAYER & WORSHIP

“Let us greet him with a song of praise, joyfully sing out our psalms. Enter, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For this is our God, whose people we are, God’s well-tended flock.”

~ Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7

BACKGROUND

Full, conscious and active participation. These are the three elements asked of us as Catholics. We should be active and totally present not only at Mass but also in our personal journeys of prayer. Passionate involvement by parishioners at Mass as well as other opportunities for prayer can only help facilitate the Parish in reaching 30% of parishioners attending Mass in the next two years from 22% currently attending.

The following three goals were identified.

GOALS	ACTION ITEMS
Prayer Apostolate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a parish-wide Prayer Apostolate to include parishioners who are homebound as a means to help feel connected to Parish life. • Invite parishioners to join the apostolate to pray for others who are ill, etc. • Encourage parishioners to submit names to the apostolate with any specific requests.
Prayer Forms & Spirituality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for parishioners to participate in different forms of prayer. • Catechize Parish in different prayer forms and spiritualities to include but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Liturgy of the Hours ○ Eucharistic Adoration⁷ ○ Ignatian Spirituality ○ Franciscan Spirituality ○ Novenas • Establish a Spiritual Life Team to plan ongoing spiritual programs.
Liturgy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Liturgy Committee to assist in planning seasonal celebrations. • Increase participation in children and adult choirs. • Develop greater and more full and active participation in the Liturgy including congregational singing. • Encourage and invite families to participate in various liturgical ministries. • Continue to offer traditional and contemporary music at Liturgies.

Please take the time to Pray, Discern and Act on your time, gifts and talents. In what way can you serve your parish and help further the goals listed above? List it below.

⁷ Eucharistic Adoration is held every Saturday 3:15-4:15pm.

OUTCOME SEVEN – TEMPORALITIES

“The Church needs an institutional framework for its stability, community, and mission for serving the cause of the Gospel and opening people to God’s call to holiness.”

~U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults, p. 121 (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

BACKGROUND

The Parish is a community of people joined together in faith. However, the community needs a place to come together and like the U.S. Bishops stated above, we need a stable framework from budgets to structures to staff and ministry personnel.

The following four goals were identified.

GOALS	ACTION ITEMS
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the weekly offertory through increased Mass attendance. • Promote Stewardship as a way of life for the Parish community. • Expand opportunities for Memorial Donations. • Transparency through an annual financial report.
Facilities Upkeep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate a Building & Grounds Committee • Review the facilities and identify extraordinary needs and repairs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish timetable for special projects. ○ Establish a subcommittee of the finance council as buildings and grounds committee to coordinate with facilities manager.
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop policies and procedures handbook for paid staff. • Develop a job description for each paid staff position. • Develop a yearly evaluation tool for self-assessment of the staff and a Pastor evaluation of each paid staff member. • Create an employee file folder including job application, references, W-4, etc.
Lay Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities for training ministry heads for the various parish ministries, so that those heads of ministries feel competent in exercising their role as a leader. • Create a position of Pastoral Associate (salary/stipend) to be the liaison between the various parish ministries and offer enrichment opportunities.

Please take the time to Pray, Discern and Act on your time, gifts and talents. In what way can you serve your parish and help further the goals listed above? List it below.

OUTCOME EIGHT – YOUNG ADULTS

“We need to be a Church imbued with a missionary zeal for the Gospel. When young adults accept our invitation, we must welcome them, acknowledge their participation, and make room for them in all aspects of church life.”

~ Sons & Daughters of the Light, p. 4 (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Bishops define young adults as “people in their late teens, twenties, and thirties; single, married, divorced, or widowed; and with or without children.”⁸ With such a range of ages, relationship statuses, ministering to this group is challenging. Some areas (i.e. young adults with children; online formation) will be addressed under Outcome Three – Faith Formation.

The following goal were identified.

GOALS	ACTION ITEMS
Retreats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Diocesan College Campus Ministry to utilize the retreats designed by Charis Ministries.
Social/Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to solicit ideas and offer opportunities for 18-35 years old to form a spiritual support system that leads them to a personal encounter with Christ.

Please take the time to Pray, Discern and Act on your time, gifts and talents. In what way can you serve your parish and help further the goals listed above? List it below.

⁸ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Sons & Daughters of the Light, p.7. ©1996.

OUTCOME NINE– YOUTH

“[P]arishes ‘should be a place where [young people] are welcomed, grow in Jesus Christ, and minister side by side with the adults of the community’ (A Message to Youth). In parishes, young people should feel a sense of belonging and acceptance as full - fledged members of the community.”

~ *Renewing the Vision, p. 13 (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)*

BACKGROUND

The concept of a comprehensive approach to youth ministry means that youth are not isolated into one specific category. Rather they are invited and encouraged to participate in parish ministries in various roles as well as create, organize and participate in age appropriate activities.⁹ Moving forward with this Plan, it is important to note that preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is a part of the Comprehensive Youth Ministry model.

The following two goals were identified.

GOALS	ACTION ITEMS
Youth Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Youth Ministry consisting of students in grades 6-9 from within our Parish to help develop their social, spiritual and emotional growth. • Solicit four (minimum) adult volunteers to serve as advisors for our Youth Ministry programs. • Train Youth Ministry members in their role as leaders. • Invite students from grades 10-12 to serve as junior advisors. • Schedule monthly social activities for grades 6-9 that include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movie Nights with follow-up discussions • Game Nights • Educational and Service activities • To send a minimum of two parish youth(s) to the Diocesan CLI (Christian Leadership Institute) to be teen leaders within our community.
Peer Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase participation in all parish ministries.¹⁰ • Form a Youth St. Vincent de Paul Ministry in collaboration with the Parish’s existing SVDP to strengthen the Justice & Service component. • Develop a retreat team of teens & adults to assist with Confirmation retreats.

⁹ Currently, youth serve, as cantors & choir members and as lectors & Eucharistic Ministers.

¹⁰ Participation in the Diocesan Christian Leadership Institute is encouraged; parish scholarships portion of fee.

Please take the time to Pray, Discern and Act on your time, gifts and talents. In what way can you serve your parish and help further the Youth goals? List it below.

WHAT'S NEXT?

So what does this mean for our Parish Community? The staff, Pastoral and Finance Councils will establish time tables for the aforementioned outcomes and goals. Since the Parish will participate in the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Process, Parish Leadership will conduct periodic reviews of this Plan to ensure it stays relevant to our needs while keeping in line with previously stated Diocesan Goals.

“The participation of the lay faithful in the threefold mission of Christ as Priest, Prophet and King finds its source in the anointing of Baptism, its further development in Confirmation and its realization and dynamic sustenance in the Holy Eucharist. It is a participation given to each member of the lay faithful individually, in as much as each is one of the many who form the one Body of the Lord...”

*~ St. John Paul II, *Christifideles Laci*. (On the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World), 14*

Hopefully, as you have read this living document, you have been able to pray and discern areas of interest where you may wish to become involved; or at the very least, perhaps you have an idea that you would like to share with Fr. Dan, the staff or the Pastoral Council? These are small but necessary steps as we look forward to being Disciples and a Parish that is Mission based and not simply maintenance based.

CONTACT INFORMATION

PARISH STAFF

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Prayer to the Queen of Martyrs

Mary, most holy Virgin and Queen of Martyrs, accept the sincere homage of my devoted affection. Into your heart, pierced by so many swords, do you welcome my poor soul. Receive it as the companion of your sorrows at the foot of the Cross, on which Jesus died for the redemption of the world. With you, O sorrowful Virgin, I will gladly suffer all the trials, contradictions, and infirmities which it shall please our Lord to send me. I offer them all to you in memory of your sorrows, so that every thought of my mind, and every beat of my heart may be an act of compassion and of love for you. And you, sweet Mother, have pity on me, reconcile me to your divine Son Jesus, keep me in His grace, and assist me in my last agony, so that I may be able to meet you in heaven and sing your glories. Amen.