

# Blessed Sacrament Community – Pastoral Strategic Plan

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Vision

The spirit-led people of Blessed Sacrament will be a joyful, Christ-centered, sacramental community of love, service, and peace.

## Mission

Because our hearts are burning within us, we the Community of Blessed Sacrament are Disciples of Christ, witnessing the love of God through worship, service, and life-long faith formation.

## Focus Areas

### Focus Area 1

Align, articulate and coordinate all parish ministries, councils, committees and staff positions with the parish vision and mission, as well as the Archdiocese guidelines and prescriptions.

### Focus Area 2

Increase and improve engagement, involvement and participation in parish life by all parishioners, especially from the young adult population.

### Focus Area 3

Increase outreach efforts to approach, engage and invite the involvement, participation and membership of people who are not yet affiliated with a Catholic parish, especially from the young adult population.

### Focus Area 4

Increase efforts, supports and expenditures to identify and address the needs of the poor and the marginalized populations.

## Finance

### Goal 1

Plan and implement a budget that supports the resources needed to achieve the strategic plan goals and action steps.

### Goal 2

Implement steps for increasing parish income so that parish programs and ministries are supported and improved.

### Goal 3

Collaborate with other standing committees to assist with the implementation of their strategic plan goals.

## Liturgy

### Goal 1

Enhance music ministry and cultivate parishioner talent and participation.

### Goal 2

Recruit and train parishioners to increase the number of participants in liturgical ministries.

### Goal 3

Promote and make liturgical celebrations more accessible.

### Goal 4

Educate and motivate the poor and marginalized to engage in liturgical celebrations.

## Community Life

### Goal 1

Restructure and implement the existing “Host Communities” model.

### Goal 2

Increase, enhance, and communicate parish events to engage parishioners and those not yet affiliated with a Catholic parish.

### Goal 3

Utilize Host Communities to identify and engage our poor and marginalized populations.

## Social Justice

### Goal 1

Increase membership and recruit parishioners to help coordinate projects and activities.

### Goal 2

Consider a sister-parish arrangement either in the US or abroad in impoverished areas.

### Goal 3

a) Identify and sponsor charitable causes up to 6-8 times per year.  
b) Gain recognition and support within Cedar Valley as a parish focused on feeding the hungry – Holiday food bags and Lenten meal packaging.

### Goal 4

Establish a percentage of parish income dedicated to Social Justice.

## Stewardship

### Goal 1

Increase the number of parish volunteers for all parish ministries, projects, and activities.

### Goal 2

Increase vocational awareness within the parish.

### Goal 3

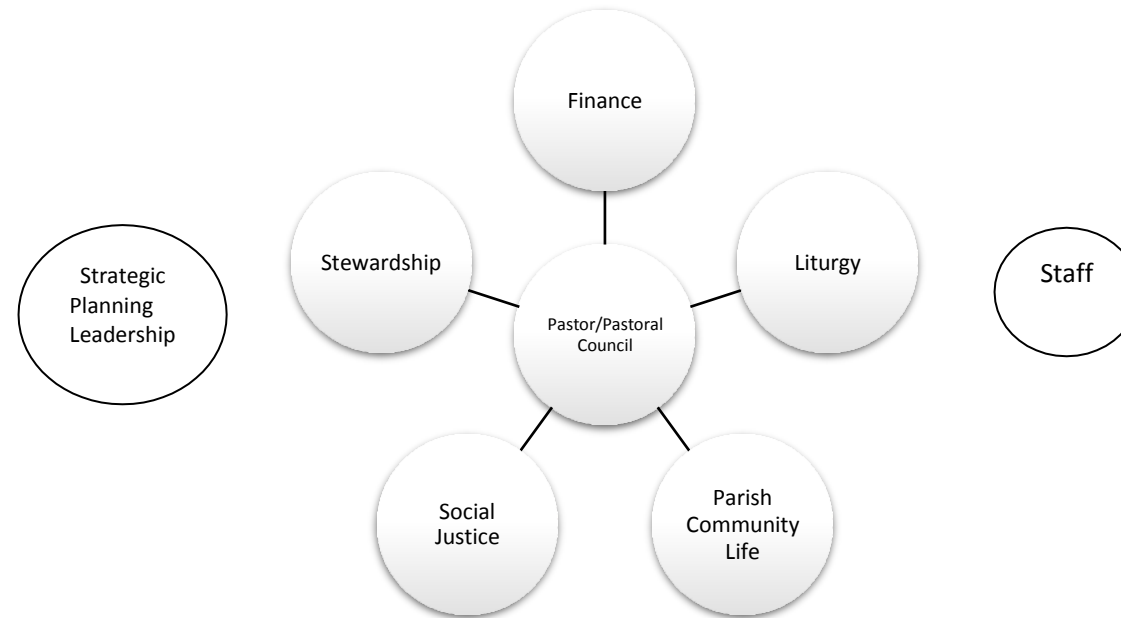
Identify and reach out to inactive registered parishioners, their inactive adult children, and non-affiliated Catholics attending parish and faith formation activities in order to engage and invite their involvement, participation, and membership in our parish.

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**Purpose:** The purpose of our 5-year strategic plan is to provide a detailed guide and action plan that is in accordance with Archdiocese guidelines and the mission of the universal Catholic Church. This plan will direct and support the important and spiritual work of our committees, leadership, staff members, and ministries.

**Members:** All groups, including the pastor, pastoral council, the Strategic Planning Leadership team, staff, and standing committees will work together to ensure that the strategic plan is being followed and goals achieved. Pastoral Council will act as a body of both accountability and support for each standing committee and their goals. Pastoral Council will be in a symbiotic relationship with the five standing committees to work together to achieve the strategic plan goals. Staff will provide support as needed and as appropriate. The Strategic Planning Leadership team will also provide support when needed. This relationship is illustrated in the graphic below:



**Focus Areas:** Beyond the four (4) focus areas identified in the graphic on page 1, there is a fifth focus area. This focus area is all encompassing and so is not a direct goal of any individual committee, but rather something that the parish as a whole is striving to achieve in all areas. This will be a more direct goal in subsequent years. Focus Area 5 is presented below.

**Focus Area 5:** Continue and increase efforts to have conversation, needs assessments, and joint planning to consider additional ways in which metro Catholic parishes, and other faith communities, can coordinate and share ministries, leadership structures, and programs in a coordinated and consolidated manner.

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## July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 Progress Update

### Finance

#### Goal 1:

- Planned the FY 2016-17 budget with each committee and staff member to incorporate their budgetary needs and include financial resources to support their ministries and strategic planning goals.
- FY 2016/17 budget approved by PC on April 19, 2016 and implemented July 1, 2017.
- Committee Goals Projects line funded partly through fundraising efforts, with the balance supported by the general fund.
- Priorities for funding of strategic planning goals were determined by the committees in conjunction with the Pastoral and Finance Councils.

#### Goal 2:

- Implemented a "Designated Sacrificial Giving Option" to give parishioners more control of how their contributions are allocated.
- Established the Fr. Louis Putz Legacy Society to encourage planned giving.
- Initiated a Stewardship Campaign Appeal to encourage parishioners to consider a modest increase in their Adult Envelope commitment and participation in electronic giving through EFT.
  - Resulted in a significant increase in eGiving
  - Generated one-time contributions totaling over \$19,000
  - Increased annual contribution commitments through Adult Envelopes by \$75,000 - \$80,000 , just over a 10% increase.

#### Goal 3:

- Supported parish outreach efforts through funding of committee goals and projects utilizing both brass bucket and general fund monies.
- Assisted Social Justice committee with the Lenten Meal Project by helping recruit financial support from local Catholic parishes and other faith communities, as well as the brass bucket appeal.
  - Contacted the six local Catholic parishes, as well as the 4th Street Coalition, to solicit support of our Lenten Meal Packaging Project.
    - Received \$500 donations from both St. Edward Parish and Zion Lutheran Church
    - \$10,000 cost of the 40,000 meals packaged for the NE Iowa Food Bank was funded through donations, brass bucket appeal and general fund monies.
- Assisted in the planning and operation of an estate sale and garage sale.
  - Proceeds from the estate sale generated a donation of \$6,000 to the parish.
  - The garage sale generated \$8,500 for the parish.
- The annual Holiday Food Bag Project continues to receive support through the budget to supplement parishioner support.

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### Liturgy

#### Goal 1:

- The Committee continues to promote efforts to increase awareness of the music ministry and invite participation through recruitment in the bulletin, website, newsletter, time and talent surveys and personal contacts.
  - The Clarke Collegiate Singers performed a beautiful concert in the Church on May 1st.
  - Two additional pianists have been hired.
  - A Men's Choir consisting of 8-10 members has been formed.

#### Goal 2:

- The Prayer for Vocations was recited after Communion several weekends in a row.
- Seminarian Jim Goerend was with the parish in the Spring and Summer and participated at many of our Masses.
- We encouraged vocations by remembering Chris Evans, Jim Goerend and Marissa Butler in the Prayers of the Faithful.
- Two new members joined the committee: Janet Witt will serve as Head Usher and Judy Bullis is a member of the committee.

#### Goal 3:

- The committee continues to research ways to promote liturgical celebrations and make them more accessible through live-streaming or recording and making them available online.
  - This goal remains in the development phase due to the complexity and cost of equipment.
- The committee is coordinating a monthly Youth Mass with area youth serving in each ministry.

#### Goal 4:

- The committee continues to seek coordinators for the Children's Liturgy of the Word for 10:30 Mass, as well as students in need of service hours to serve as Assistants.
- A babysitting service is being planned for our 10:30 Mass. This will also require a qualified coordinator and student assistants.

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## July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 Progress Update

Community  
Life

### Goal 1:

- Continuing to move forward with Host Communities revitalization.
  - Mapping of small community groups within the parish.
  - Recruitment of Contact Persons for each community.
  - Parish education via bulletin announcements, newsletter, website, social media and information session.

### Goal 2:

- PCL Ministry Fair held after masses the weekend of May 13/14
  - Conducted survey to receive parishioner input on types of community-building events they would like to see. 242 surveys were returned.
  - Majority of surveys indicated a desire for Fall Festival, Winterfest, Garage Sale type events.
- An annual event calendar will be created to facilitate planning and coordination.
- Event leaders will be identified in advance
- The committee seeks to balance fund-raising aspects of our events with the need to offer free or reduced cost events (for ex: family ticket prices for Fall Festival capped at \$40).

### Goal 3:

- Events will be reviewed in the planning process to ensure accommodation is made for lower/fixed income parishioners and guests.

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### Social Justice

#### Goal 1:

- Committee continues to seek increased involvement by members of the parish on the committee and suggestions for social justice projects.
  - Article describing the purpose and function of the committee and each social justice project appear regularly in the parish newsletter and social media platforms.
  - The committee is developing a suggestion box available for short periods of time incrementally to solicit parishioner comments and suggestions.
  - Continued coordination and advocacy for parish service programs and mission projects.
- Marketing efforts continue for Social Justice Projects through social media utilizing Facebook and the Parish Blog, as well as through more traditional forms such as weekly bulletins, newsletters and the website.

#### Goal 2:

- With the exception of the "Children of the Dump" Project, no progress has been made in the development of a sister parish either in the U.S. or abroad in impoverished areas.

#### Goal 3:

- Holiday Food Bag Project resulted in 387 bags being delivered to 6 local schools.
  - A large number of Scouts and school students participated in the project.
- Lenten Meal Packaging Project was highly successful and well-received.
  - 40,000 macaroni and cheese meals were packaged for local distribution.
- The Children of the Dump Project continues to grow with 500 boxes being filled.
- At the suggestion of parishioners, a Community Garden was started to provide fresh produce to the NE Iowa Food Bank.
  - 358 lbs of produce were delivered - sufficient to help 82 people or 39 families.
- The committee has identified three primary activities and established schedules and dates for these projects.
- Working to continue to expand participation by local Hy-Vee stores for the Holiday Food Bag Project.
- The committee continues to seek partnerships with other local Catholic parishes and faith communities for social justice projects.
- Researching to publicize other local social needs, such as mentoring programs in local school and volunteer support of JOB ministries (financial awareness and skills)

#### Focus Area 4

- Collaboration with the Finance Council has set Social Justice funding at 10% of Adult Envelopes.

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### Stewardship

#### Goal 1:

- The October 2016 time & talent survey resulted in 242 surveys being completed.
- "Joyfully Gifted Workshop" was held on March 24th and April 4th. 27 parishioners attended.
- Annual "Ministry Appreciation Breakfast" was held on June 11th, highlighting volunteers who support our liturgies.
- Stewardship messages are a recurring feature in weekly bulletins.

#### Goal 2:

- Prayer cards were designed and printed for use by parishioners to mail to those individuals for whom they have prayed for during Mass. Cards are located in the Votive Candle space.
- Baptism cards, signed by the committee, are sent to parents of all newly baptized children of the parish.
- Quarterly Witness Talks are organized and coordinated by the metro Director of Adult Faith Formation and promoted in the bulletin, website and social media.
- Table prayers for use at Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving are provided to parishioners via bulletin inserts, email and website postings.
- "Growing with the Gospel" booklets are provided for use as children's coloring books each weekend.

#### Goal 3:

- Welcoming Ministry is an ongoing effort by the Committee.
- Stewardship hosted a Hospitality Weekend in October of 2016.
- Parish informational brochures were distributed to local motels with the parish boundaries in June.
- Stewardship Committee continues to support our outreach efforts through the time and talent survey and marketing activities in the newsletter, website and social media.