

Directions and Emphases in the Life of Our Parish

Church of St. Richard

2009

One of the roles of the Pastoral Council is to foster, through a collaborative effort, the alignment of the mission, goals, and strategic decisions of the parish. Our parish committees and commissions demonstrate exemplary efforts and dedication to St. Richard's parish. We are truly blessed to have such talented and loyal staff and volunteers in our parish. We gratefully appreciate the cooperation of our commissions and committees in addressing our previous goals and for identifying primary goals and desired outcomes.

In reviewing all the comments from our commissions and committees, a common theme and emphasis has surfaced: **Celebrate and integrate our evolving parish strengths to meet our 21st Century needs.** To provide the most effective format to communicate this theme, the Pastoral Council deems it most appropriate to further emphasize our mission statement. At this unique moment in our parish history, we are not seeking to replace our mission statement, but to continue utilizing it as a guiding element both within St. Richard's parish and the wider community. Within the mission statement are listed the specific directions and emphases each commission and committee is addressing. The commissions and committees have named specific goals and objectives.

The placement of each particular emphasis reflects a desire to further convey the broad scope of our ministries within the parish mission statement. We hope this format provides additional illustration of how the principles and practices of our Mission Statement feed and enhance each other.

This document is envisioned as a three-year floating document to be modified each year as we continue to discern the directions and emphases in our life as parish and to implement specific goals and objectives in our parish mission.

With Jesus Christ as our center, we continue the mission of Christ to bring about the Reign of God by:

Celebrating and living the Eucharist

- The Worship Commission will continue to strive to make our liturgy reflective of our growing diversity.
 - Realize that diversity is more than ethnicity and skin color
 - Work towards having diversity in liturgical ministries
 - Incorporate cultural items (fabric, etc.) in environment and worship
- The Vocations Reflection Group will continue to provide resources for increasing awareness of the broad connotations of vocation and for discernment in discovering a particular vocation.
 - Provide workshops for people to discern their vocation, ministry, etc.
 - Provide opportunities for people to learn about spiritual direction after Sunday liturgies

Sharing the Good News

- The Evangelization Commission will lead the parish in evangelization efforts that build on our four-year experience of the archdiocesan Evangelization Initiative.
 - Reach out to people in the neighborhood (parish boundaries?) to inform and invite – inform neighbors about St. Richard's parish, and invite them to join us
 - Meet jointly with the Communications Resource Committee regarding means of outreach
- The Communications Resource Committee will continue to explore means of communication within the parish and in the broader community.

- Determine the best use of our advertising dollars
- Continue work on improving our website and parish bulletin

Fostering Faith Formation

- The Faith Formation Commission will emphasize the importance of respecting the dignity of self and others as foundational in our Christian living.
 - Continue to develop the commitment to goals related to multicultural diversity and hidden disabilities
 - Be more aware of and more attentive to economic diversity
 - Continue to invite parishioners to LifeLong Learning, especially engaged couples, newly married couples, families of newly baptized children, and new parishioners.

Welcoming All

- The Parishioner Resource Committee will continue to explore means of recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers in parish ministries.
 - Host a gathering of 2007 and 2008 new parishioners on April 26, 2009, after the 11:00 Mass

Reaching out in Service

- The Pastoral Care Commission will continue to address the pastoral needs of our parishioners and others to whom we minister.
 - Continue ministry to seniors
 - Review pastoral practices regarding funerals and grief ministry and consider possible enhancements

Working for Justice

- The Justice Commission will continue to foster a deeper appreciation for Catholic Social Teaching in a way that enables all parishioners to embrace justice as integral to the life and action of every believer.
 - Address justice issues through forums regarding the Common Good
 - Provide bulletin inserts and DVD presentation on Faithful Citizenship

Engaging in Generous Stewardship

- The Finance Committee and the Facility Resources Committee will collaboratively address how to best implement a 10-year capital improvement plan.
 - Work on recruiting new members
 - Have a joint meeting to address the 10-year plan
 - Financial Resources Committee will consider proposals for refinancing the loans coming due in April 2009
- The Stewardship Commission will lead the parish in further appreciation of stewardship as an integral dimension of our Catholic spirituality.
 - Educate the parish through bulletin articles on the concept of Stewardship as a Way of Life (more than contributing money)
 - Host a workshop on estate planning and how to leave St. Richard's parish in their will
 - Provide regular stewardship thoughts in the Sunday bulletin
- The trustees, two councils, Finance Committee, Facility Committee, and Stewardship Committee will continue efforts to engage all parishioners in the capital campaign as a means of renewing the resource of our parish facilities.