

Saint Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Plan 2008

Our Parish Pastoral Plan is based on supporting the seven essential elements of parish life: Word, Worship, Evangelization, Service, Community, Stewardship, and Leadership. These elements constantly interrelate in parish life, each nurturing and supporting each other. At their core they all are related to our communal celebration of Sunday Eucharist.

It is the responsibility of our Parish Pastoral Council to seek parishioner input in the development of goals for the parish. To that end an Assembly was held May 20, 2007, attended by 75 parishioners. During the program each person was asked to engage in prayerful discernment and respond in writing to each of the following questions followed by discussions at their table.

- What are we doing well as a parish?
- As a parish, which of the 7 essential elements should we put more focus on and why?
- Knowing that Jesus is here today, what is He telling us to direct our future? What is He telling us about what we should be doing?
- How should we reach out to the broader community from our parish?

A subcommittee of pastoral council members then organized and summarized the written responses and formulated the following four major goals which were supported by the entire council.

- Expand efforts in areas of Evangelization and Word for youth.
- Expand efforts in areas of Evangelization and Word for adults.
- Increase Service opportunities, participation, recognition and support.
- Enhance all 7 elements of parish life by improving communication.

These goals were shared with parishioners as part of an invitation to attend a follow-up Assembly on September 23, 2007. At this assembly the parish hall was divided into 4 areas. Each of the 50 attendees selected the area that was of most interest to them. Each group was then asked to engage in prayerful and positive creative brainstorming to identify specific objectives which would support a particular goal. The general results from each group were then shared with the others in attendance. Most of the groups held their own meetings later to continue their work on identifying objectives and attaching a time-line if possible.

The four groups discerned both short-term objectives that could be accomplished in one year and long-term objectives that will likely take several years to fully implement. Pastoral Council discerned that if that is where the Lord led them, that is what they would support.

It is important to note that several groups of parishioners had been discussing and developing ways to improve the pastoral life of the parish prior to the assemblies. Hence a number of the objectives formally identified in the plan have already been instituted. One example which relates to both goals two and four is the adult education program on the meaning of the Mass offered during Advent with audio recordings of the program posted on the parish web site.

GOAL #1 - Expand efforts in areas of Evangelization and Word for youth.

Objectives:

- a) By May, 2008, a youth ministry plan will be implemented for 3 separate age groups: elementary school, middle school, high school. The plans will include who, what, how and will be updated annually.
- b) Maintain effective and varied communication with youth via internet, phone tree, suggestion box, prayer chain, etc.
- c) By January, 2008, begin celebrating a monthly youth mass incorporating youth in varied liturgical roles and youth music.
- d) Achieve 50% confirmation class active participation in church ministry by Fall, 2008.
- e) Recognize the accomplishments of our youth during mass, on the website, in the Gathering Space, etc.

GOAL #2 - Expand efforts in areas of Evangelization and Word for adults.

Objectives:

- a) Establish a permanent committee on Evangelization by Feb. 1, 2008.
- b) Create a forum to discuss modern topics and publicize it.
- c) Establish a formal adult religious education program
- d) Establish an outreach to C&E Catholics.
- e) Re-establish a program of small faith-based communities. There are only 1-2 communities that currently still exist.

GOAL #3 - Increase Service opportunities, participation, recognition and support.

Objectives:

- a) Create a survey and distribute to parishioners to identify needs and opportunities for new service ministries.
- b) Assess needs of current service ministries and make plans to meet those needs.
- c) Increase participation and recognition of our service ministries via improved parish communication efforts.

GOAL #4 - Enhance all 7 elements of parish life by improving communication.

Objectives:

- a) Improve the Bulletin to reflect the vibrant nature of our Parish.
- b) Develop ways to receive feedback from Parishioners.
- c) Expand internal (within the parish) communications.
- d) Expand the use of technology and the media to improve communications.
- e) Implement external (community) communications.