



MISSION STATEMENT

*Nourished by
God's Word and
the Eucharist,
St. Jane Frances
de Chantal Parish
is a welcoming
Catholic community
dedicated to
living and proclaiming
the Gospel of
Jesus Christ.*

October 2009

Dear Friends in Christ:

I am pleased to present the total Parish Pastoral Plan for St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish. A little over a year ago, parishioners were invited to form a Pastoral Planning Committee. Their task was to review the current status of the Parish, to study related data and to develop a vision for the next three to five years. To complete this comprehensive study over 150 parishioners formed Task Teams to further analyze and discuss the issues and concerns raised by the Pastoral Planning Committee. After months of praying, listening, learning, debating and discerning, a plan has been created and a path prepared for the future spiritual, personal and communal growth of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish.

In simple terms, this Pastoral Plan is a roadmap for the parish. As we begin this new phase of our journey of faith, some of the places we will be going are familiar, others will be new. And even familiar places can look different as the landscape changes. And the landscape is indeed changing. Our parish isn't what it was even five or ten years ago. We are a faith community of approximately 1,650 families and we have become more diverse ethnically and economically over the course of time.

I believe this plan is a result of the praying community of our parish family. The effects of prayer are tangible, especially in a community that remains faithful to their baptismal promises. The power of prayer gives us direction in all aspects of life.

I also believe that we, the people of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, value our Catholic Christian identity and acknowledge the promptings and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in accordance with our mission statement to live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Each parishioner is a shareholder in our faith community that is striving to be transparent in all things, both spiritual and material. I trust you will see your own dreams and hopes and commit yourself to doing all you can to help realize this vision. Together we can make our parish even better than it already is – an even stronger, prayerful, loving and welcoming community of faith.

Blessings and Peace,

Fr. Jerry Slowinski
Pastor

Summary of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish Pastoral Plan Recommendations

The people of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish affirm our Parish Mission Statement. As a community of faith and stewards of our parish, we recommend the following actions to advance our Mission:

To Celebrate the Eucharist:

- Provide feedback so that homilies are clearly understood, effective, and relevant in helping a person live out the Gospel
- Promote the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Highlight each liturgical season
- Encourage more parishioners involvement in the Worship Committee
- Offer various styles of mass and various mass times
- Increase mass attendance
- Make current and new parishioners feel more welcome
- Encourage more and better participation in the music ministry (*IMPLEMENTED*)

To provide the leadership and resources needed to have an excellent ministry of teaching:

- Encourage certification of all catechists
- Ensure that faith formation classes are accessible to all
- Develop evangelization classes
- Highlight the multi-cultural diversity of the parish
- Educate the parish on moral issues and the teachings of the church
- Offer on-going faith formation to all age groups
- Promote vocations
- Keep parents updated on the costs of faith formation and student achievement
- Educate the parish on the Liturgy preparation
- Develop a program for the continuing education of high school students (after confirmation)
- Make parishioners aware that faith formation involves the whole family

To encourage Stewardship and Caretaking of current and future parishioners:

- Form a finance committee to support the Pastor (*IMPLEMENTED*)
- Keep parishioners informed of the parish debt
- Publish simplified financial information for all to understand
- Develop and maintain a 5 year maintenance plan
- Create a plan to address future capital expenditures
- Encourage all registered parishioners to use their envelopes and offer electronic payments
- Create and maintain a database of all parishioner's talents & interests & utilize them in the parish
- Have an annual ministry fair
- Establish contact with inactive parishioners
- Acknowledge parishioners sacrifices & volunteerism

To Reach Out in a spiritual and non-spiritual manner to the Community:

- Develop a voluntary envelope program for elementary school children
- Update the parish database and include time and talent information

- Design a program to enhance the registration process for new parishioners
- Acknowledge the diversity of the parish and include all parishioners
- Expand programs for displaced workers, such as the Career Development Ministry
- Consider additional services to assist young families
- Develop outreach programs for parishioners in emotional crisis
- Communicate with parishioners and the surrounding community in traditional and non-traditional methods
- Make a special effort to work with alienated Catholics
- Encourage, organize and publicize parish social interaction
- Identify and implement ways to recognize our volunteers

To encourage Young Adults (18 to 35 years old) to participate and become involved in the faith life of the community:

- Design a young adult program based on the doctrines of the Church
- Develop spiritual programs and social events for young adults
- Communicate with young adults including the use of facebook and twitter
- Empower young adults and include them in all parish functions
- Include young adults on every major committee in the parish
- Create a young adult group in the parish
- Add volunteer opportunities specifically for young adults
- Encourage young adults to join the Scripture Study classes
- Given that young adults are the future of the parish, promote and foster their active participation in maintaining the financial health of the parish

To have a strong Youth Ministry that will prepare emerging adults for future years of spiritual growth both within their faith and secular life:

- Increase youth ministry participation
- Encourage youth to be involved in all church ministries
- Make youth ministry relevant and convenient for all teens
- Develop more effective communication and sharing of information
- Promote teens ownership of the youth ministry
- Provide opportunities for more youth participation in Christian service
- Increase involvement of the Pastor in youth activities
- Evaluate the need to merge the youth ministry with another parish

To provide Senior Members with opportunities for spiritual growth and interaction with other members of the parish:

- Clarify past and future Church changes
- Partner up seniors with young people to close the generation gap that exists
- Assist seniors in need with information or direction to assistance
- Develop a database of seniors skills and talents and facilitate sharing with younger parishioners
- Establish a more active senior social club

The detailed recommendations from parishioners' focus area task teams are available for review in the parish office. Progress towards specific recommendation will be reported by the pastor and through the parish bulletin and website.

Development of the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Pastoral Plan & Next Steps

Fr. Jerry Slowinski, as pastor of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, formed a 20 member Planning Committee to assist him in the development of a strategic pastoral plan to further the parish's mission over the next 3 to 5 years.

The Planning Committee analyzed data sources from the parish and local community, identifying the key findings, patterns and trends impacting the parish. From this analysis, the committee identified the concerns within seven categories: Worship, Religious Education, Stewardship, Community Outreach, Young Adults, Youth Ministry, and Seniors. Focus Area Task Teams were formed around these seven categories. Parishioners were invited and encouraged to participate in one of the seven Task Teams. Over 150 parishioners responded to this calling.

The seven Task Teams examined and discussed the identified concerns, surfaced ideas on how the parish should address each concern and, finally, reached consensus on which ideas to present to the planning committee as recommendations.

The Pastoral Planning Committee organized the recommendations into a Final Report for review by the Pastor, Pastoral Staff, and Parish Council.

The Pastor, Pastoral Staff, and Parish Council will review this Final Report, accept or amend recommendations and assign the lead responsibility for each item. Those with lead responsibility submit their goals, objectives, action steps, timeline and budget to the Pastor, Pastoral Staff, and Parish Council for approval.

Once approved, the Parish Council will establish a tracking committee to monitor the plan's implementation. Updates will be communicated to parishioners by our Pastor, in the St. Jane Frances de Chantal bulletin, and on the St. Jane Frances de Chantal website.

