

**SAINT ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND
PARISH MISSION READINESS STATEMENT**

In light of our review and reflection upon the material from the Archdiocesan survey and our parish strategic pastoral planning discussions, we identify the following items related to:

Mission Readiness

◆ Opportunities

- large response to AOB Survey Question #25 indicates strong interest in spiritual growth/adult faith formation offerings
- possibilities exist for shared ministry staffing among neighboring parishes (i.e. Youth Minister, etc.)
- presence of St. Maria Goretti High School on our campus – may provide ministry/evangelization outreach opportunities
- campus facilities are in very good condition and could be utilized more fully with parish and local community groups
- the general area of the parish is expected to remain economically stable
- parish social outreach ministries are strong and well-supported by generous parishioners – an appealing and attractive feature about the character of our faith community

◆ Challenges

- more ministry offerings are desired for youth, high school teens, young adult and adult faith formation
- greater and more coordinated efforts can be made to strengthen welcoming and hospitality
- desire for preaching to be strengthened re: spiritual relevance and “connections” with people’s lived experiences
- staffing – difficulty identifying, hiring, retaining high quality team members
- Mass attendance and parishioner registration has declined for several years
- cumulative effects of a number of years of frequent turnover and instability in various pastoral leadership roles
- the demographic profile of the parish has become very strongly characterized by the senior (55 years of age +) cohort
- presence of several nearby and successful evangelical “mega-churches”
- the existence of long-standing parish “cultures” that have stereotyped the identities of neighboring parishes (i.e. “traditional”, “progressive”, etc.)
- worship and liturgical music ministry support has been less robust than desired

- communication efforts with the parish have not been as timely and clear as would be desirable

Missionary Conversion

◆ Opportunities

- a clear desire/interest is evident in people seeking ways to experience spiritual growth, development and formation in faith
- a strong and positive sense of pride among parishioners in the parish's identity
- more openness/interest among the senior members to participate in inter-generational faith formation events

◆ Challenges

- Likelihood of some resistance/lack of openness among some to considering new/changes of approach in the delivery of ministry
- a culture that is sometimes less than fully "open" to newer participants in the parish community
- the faith community's relationship with the larger secular culture/values and the dynamic of religion as a "consumer commodity"

The Planning Team members who participated in the preparation of the Mission Readiness Statement included:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| ◆ Msgr. J. Bruce Jarboe | - | Pastor |
| ◆ John Chambers | - | Corporator |
| ◆ Steve Heffner | - | Pastoral Council |
| ◆ Frank Linn | - | Pastoral Council |
| ◆ Donna Louzon | - | Staff |
| ◆ Mary Lawrence Melvin | - | Finance Council |

Appendix:

As Saint Ann Parish approached the 50th anniversary year of its founding, the Pastoral Council recognized that the conclusion of a parish 5-year strategic plan would be taking place at the same time. The Council also recognized that moment as an opportunity to begin a process to create a new pastoral plan looking ahead to shape a future vision and identify several priority goals toward which the parish would be giving particular and focused attention as it moves forward.

Following a series of preparatory discussions that began in January 2016, the Council began a series of planning sessions to first establish the foundation elements of what might eventually become the new parish pastoral plan --- a new Mission Statement, a new Vision Statement and a new Values Statement. The Council's work has been undertaken with the awareness that its

efforts would also be very useful in anticipation of the implementation of the Archdiocesan “Be Missionary Disciples” process and its vision of evangelization-driven shared pastoral planning among parishes (pastorates).

The parish pastoral plan will consist of three elements:

- PRIORITIES : a few broad and strategic areas of focus that will have a significant impact in helping the parish to more fully become what It sees itself called to be in its Mission and Vision Statements
- INITIATIVES : a series of objectives and programs that, over time, will lead toward the accomplishment of the goals identified as the parish Priorities
- PROJECTS : a number of more specific, concrete and actionable items that will support the achievement of the desired outcomes of the various Initiatives

It is anticipated that the process of confirming the Priorities and Initiatives will be completed by the end of the calendar year. The new Statements of Mission, Vision and Values are:

MISSION To be a welcoming Catholic community
That Loves God, Forms Disciples, Serves Others, Changes Lives.

VISION Saint Ann Catholic Church strives to:

- ◆ Extend warm and friendly hospitality that offers acceptance, respect and joy to all.
- ◆ Draw people closer to God through engaging prayer, relevant preaching and inspiring music ministry.
- ◆ Engage everyone – children, youth and teens, young adults, adults – to personally grow and develop in their spiritual life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Nurture meaningful and supportive relationships in a Christian community.
- ◆ Inspire the sharing of our gifts by freely giving time, talent and treasure as grateful and faithful stewards of the abundant blessings entrusted to us by God.
- ◆ Serve our neighbors, our nation and our world; protect the sacred dignity of every person; and promote the development of a just society.
- ◆ Reach out to anyone unfamiliar with or disconnected from the spiritual life.

VALUES : People are important to us ---
 Loving disciples welcome others

Worship matters to us ---
 Prayerful disciples glorify God

Faith grows in us ---
 Flourishing disciples help other disciples grow

Community sustains us ---
 Strong disciples support each other in shared relationships

Generosity characterizes us ---
 Grateful disciples share their gifts

Justice moves us to action ---
 Caring disciples serve others

Invitation attracts people ---
 Enthusiastic disciples attract others