

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF

Chapel Hill, North Carolina



## **Pastoral Strategic Plan 2017-2019**

**December, 2017**

### **1. Faith and Spiritual Formation Leading to Full and Active Discipleship**

*Expand opportunities for lifelong faith formation, spiritual growth and evangelization in the STM Community; increase individual and family involvement in the life of the parish*

1.1 Witness to the Gospel: Increase awareness in the Chapel Hill area of the presence of St. Thomas More as a church community welcoming those searching for a place to worship. Increase participation in community events specifically sponsored by STM. Train parishioners willing to evangelize outside the walls of STM church.

1.2 Expand Intentional Discipleship: Develop and implement a Discipleship Catechesis including various classes, programs, initiatives and retreats to expand and reinforce the concepts of Intentional Discipleship within the Parish. Have parish leaders attend workshops at the Catherine of Siena Institute. Prepare and present the Come and See Retreat on an ongoing basis, and the Called and Gifted Retreat in 2018.

1.3 Religious Vocations: Develop and implement programming to support interests in Priesthood and Consecrated life.

1.4 Awakening Faith: Returning Catholics Program: Beginning in the fall of 2015, develop and maintain a program for returning Catholics.

1.5 Fatherhood series: In collaboration with appropriate STM ministry groups develop a series for implementation in 2018.

1.6 Marriage Enrichment: Develop a program which includes catechesis, prayer, marriage preparation and for 2018, a weekend Marriage Encounter.

1.7 Small Faith Communities: Implement programming for small faith communities / leverage current Lenten small faith communities and retreat attendees

1.8 Enhance hospitality: Develop and implement programs for potential new members, new members, visitors and current parishioners (e.g. St. Benedict ministry, social gatherings, a "Buddy system").

(Diocesan Priority #2: Focus on Faith Formation and Sacramental Practice; Priority #4: Promote Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life; Diocesan Priority #5; Implement the Pastoral Initiative on Marriage and Support Family Life; Priority # 7: Plan for the Effective Management of Growth)

## **2. Outreach and Service**

*Encourage outreach to the poor and vulnerable as integral to Christian discipleship*

2.1 Connect ministries to liturgy: Link homily and scripture readings to a specific ministry as appropriate; offer a blessing of those engaged in various forms of outreach ministries (could be several combined ministries) 2-3 times a year at the discretion of the clergy. Redesign the current charity envelope to better explain how funds are used. Feature ways the charity funds are used in the Pastor's bulletin note each month.

2.2 Catholic Social Teaching: Initiate small group studies of Catholic social teaching (e.g. Faith in Action, Doorways to Formation from Diocese). Utilize bulletin inserts to increase awareness of Catholic social teaching.

2.3 Care for Creation: Encourage in the church and school spirituality of Christian environmental stewardship as presented by Pope Francis in Laudato Si. Expand practical actions that demonstrate our Catholic commitment to preserving God's gift of the Earth. Work with other local faith communities and organizations to expand our common ground of beliefs, practices and actions.

*(Diocesan Priority #1: Promote the Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Priority #2: Focus on Faith Formation and Sacramental Practice)*

## **3. Parish Unity**

*Foster unity and fellowship among our diverse members*

3.1 Church and School: Explore opportunities to strengthen the bond between the church and school.

3.2 International Fair: Create opportunity to share and celebrate different cultural heritages.

*(Diocesan Priority #3: Promote Cultural Diversity)*

## **4. Parish Communications**

*Utilize appropriate communication media to ensure that all the members of the Parish are aware, informed and engaged. A number of items listed here have a cross over with other initiatives but involve communication resources.*

4.1 Develop and implement a process for prioritization of what gets communicated within the parish and by what means.

4.2 Assess the effectiveness of current parish communications.

4.3 Create a Parish Communication Plan which utilizes current and new communications media.

*(Diocesan priority # 7: Plan for Effective Management and Growth)*

## **5. Parish Resources**

*Prioritize and obtain the resources needed to support strategic initiatives.*

Ongoing Stewardship Awareness Initiative: Develop and implement an annual Stewardship Awareness Initiative.

5.1 Automated Giving. Encourage parishioners to utilize the Automated Giving approach as a way to ensure they meet their commitment for financial stewardship.

5.2 Parishioner and Staff, Time & Talent. Develop and implement initiatives to encourage parishioners to utilize their time and talents to further the mission of the parish. Utilize various resource management tools to support balancing the workload of the parish between various staff members, parishioners and suppliers.

5.3 Offertory, Mortgage and Special Financial Needs. Effectively manage parish offertory to support strategic initiatives as well as to support the day-to-day operation of the parish and the parish Mortgage. Funding for special projects and strategic initiatives will be managed on a by-project basis.

5.4 Master Capital Planning. Implement and update a Master Capital Expenditure Plan for facilities, endowments, major expenditure items, including annual reserves for the church and school.

5.5 Acquisition and Development of South Campus. In pursuit of the parish mission, acquire and develop the land and facilities for the South Campus. Refurbish and upgrade as necessary. Effectively integrate the South Campus into the operations of the parish.

*(Diocesan Priority #5 –Effective Stewardship of Resources)*