



# Pastoral Plan St. Agnes Church

Here at St. Agnes, we have been busy fostering the growth of our church and the Church at large. Each of our goals aligns with the USCCB's plan of New Evangelization. Through our self assessment we have identified three areas where we, as parish leadership and in community, can participate in both faith renewal and outreach. As we assess what we have been concentrating on in the last few years and ways we can still improve our Parish community and faith practices, we identified three distinct priorities:

- Establishing a Youth Ministry program
- Establishing an Adult Education program
- Enhancing our Parish's involvement in Global Missionary work

## **Priority #1: Establishing a Youth Ministry program**

Over the past few years we have experienced growth in our religious education program. It is our goal to use this momentum and create a youth group. Once our students finish with their Confirmation year we find a gap in our faith formation program. It is our hope to create and foster a youth ministry program.

### Action Steps:

- hire a part time DRE
- advertise our Youth Group
- design activities especially geared towards HS youth faith formation
- purchase materials for Youth Group
- brainstorm with other successful Youth Group coordinators in the Diocese
- raise seed money to support our Youth Group

## **Priority #2: Establishing an Adult Education Program**

Our parishioners have both a need and a desire to participate in an Adult Education Program. As our pews have become more full we find there are gaps in our adult parishioners understanding of their Roman Catholic faith. In line with the Pope's Year of Mercy we aim to welcome and educate Catholics whose faith practices may have lapsed. It is our goal to create and foster an effective adult learning environment.

### Action Steps:

- hire a part Time DRE
- research effective adult education programs
- advertise program
- purchase materials for program

### **Priority #3: Enhance our Church's involvement in Global Missionary work ~ Evangelization**

In addition to our above mentioned goals of in Parish evangelization we find a call to evangelize outside of our Parish home. This goal aligns with our Synod Global Challenge of evangelization. By further engaging our Parish community in their formation we hope to form a bridge, which naturally leads towards a greater sense of the need and joy of Catholic global evangelization. While at the same time developing programs which will foster both our local and global mission opportunities.

#### **Action Steps:**

- form a Global evangelization committee using established Youth and Adult groups
- research effective Catholic Global Missions
- establish relationships with Catholic Global mission for partnership for the following:
  - communications
  - fundraising efforts
  - direct mission work/mission trips

### **Parish Life: Goals**

#### **Family Life:**

Here at St. Agnes we strive to be a parish community that addresses the needs of all of our parishioners. With our plan of augmenting our faith formation programs to include teens and adults our goal is to use these education platforms as a means to enhance family life. Much of our focus will be on community building with special regard for the family. Our emphasis will continue to be on the family serving as the first church and the most important place to practice gospel teachings.

#### **Evangelization:**

Evangelization will be both an internal and external process during the next few years in our church. We will work towards our goals of increased education opportunities for our parish community at large. Coupled with this we will be pursuing opportunities to take our increased knowledge and excitement surrounding our faith and extend our focus outward to the community at large.

#### **Leadership Development:**

As we foster our catechetical base our hope is to groom leaders in the process. Through our increased enrollment in religious education we have witnessed an increase in students serving as both teachers and at mass in general. As we enhance our educational and volunteer opportunities we will continue to be fostering young adult leadership in our parish. Furthermore, we have found as the children/young adults become more involved there is greater parental involvement in the parish overall. Our goal is to continue to community build and enhance the opportunity for leadership.

**Finance:**

Finances remain our biggest challenge. Even as mass attendance increases we do not find an increase in our collections. In fact, as our population grows younger we see that more and more of our population is unchurched and foreign to the idea of tithing. Coupled with the newer population is the loss of older parishioners who tended to be our most consistent givers. To combat this issue we have placed a focus on stewardship with an emphasis towards online giving. The Parish Council has presented power point presentations with simple breakdowns describing what amounts of contributions might be appropriate for our Parish to flourish financially and we will make these type of presentations a bi-yearly event. We will continue to remind our parishioners about the need to be contributors not only with time and talent but financially as well.