

Pastoral Plan for St. Roch Church, Greenwich

Pastoral Challenge to be addressed: Liturgy and Worship

Rationale: This area has been selected as a priority because we need to encourage more people to attend Mass at our church. We recognize that our neighborhood has changed from what it was a generation ago, that we are more diverse and that there are many newcomers. We need to be seen as a parish that welcomes new members, nurtures the growth of its faith community, and fosters parishioner involvement as we move through the liturgical year.

Goal #1 to be achieved: We can increase our attendance by becoming known as a vibrant and welcoming parish that values its parishioners, has a thriving faith community and welcomes visitors.

Action Step# 1 to achieve Goal 1:

Social hours after Masses in the church hall for both parishioners and visitors.

Action Step #2 to achieve Goal 1:

Spanish Mass but also bi-lingual events so that the English and Spanish speaking parishioners get to know each other. Foster inclusion of other groups, such as our Filipino parishioners.

Action Step #3 to achieve Goal: 1

Promote membership and support of our Guild, which is already doing work such as the bake sale and outreach to the elderly.

Action Step #4 to achieve Goal 1:

Activities centered on feast days during the year. More promotion of our patron St. Roch with attention to his feast day separately from our annual bazaar, and transformation of the procession into a larger community event. High points of the year can also be marked with simple community meals, such as pasta e fagioli during Lent, a spring picnic, or a spaghetti dinner, pizza night or pancake breakfast at any time of the year.

Action Step #5 to achieve Goal 1:

Outreach to newcomers. Phone calls or flyers to people moving into the neighborhood, letting them know they are welcome, whether they are Catholic or not. We would also let them know the various learning and social activities we offer.

Action Step # 6 to achieve Goal 1:

Review our list of registered parishioners, determine which of them are inactive, and reach out to them to find out if there are any who can be welcomed back into active attendance.

Action Step #7 to achieve Goal 1:

Promote awareness of our website, consider increased use of social media, such as the diocesan app and Facebook, and develop e-mail notification of parish events.

Pastoral Challenge to be addressed: Catechesis and Education

Rationale: Catechesis and Education enrich the lives of both children and adult parishioners as we become grounded in our Catholic faith, history and traditions. This goes hand-in-hand with our other priority, Liturgy and Worship. We need to make sure our children receive the basic religious education required for their confirmation, and beyond that we must engage their interest and encourage their participation so they remain committed to their Catholic faith as young adults. Education for adults can provide opportunities not only for learning and discussion but also for getting to know fellow parishioners and attracting new members to our parish.

Goal #2 to be achieved: Our goal is to be known as a church whose parishioners, young and old, are knowledgeable and enthusiastic about their faith, who see it as an important part of their lives, and who want to share it with newcomers.

Action Step# 1 to achieve Goal 2:

Assess the education program at St. Roch to determine that we have catechists who are willing and properly trained. Encourage family involvement and attendance at Mass as a family.

Action Step #2 to achieve Goal 2:

Get more children involved in the life of the church as altar servers, or have the older ones serve as lectors. Perhaps a children's choir or Christmas pageant.

Action Step #3 to achieve Goal 2:

Organize community service for children such as a food drive, nursing home visits etc.

Action Step #4 to achieve Goal 2:

Talks and discussion groups throughout the year, such as the Mercy talks which have been held in this Year of Mercy. Continue movie nights.

Action Step #5 to achieve Goal 2:

Form a Bible study and/or prayer group.

Administrative Challenge to be addressed: Buildings and Facilities

Rationale: Although the parish has completed several important capital projects in recent years, including a new roof, renovation of the stained – glass windows and renovating the rental property at 228 Hamilton Avenue, there are several large projects still to be done and we need to make sure we’re able to fund them. We also have to get full occupancy of our rental properties.

Goal: Complete renovation of the church hall so that it can be used for the activities envisioned in our other goals. Replace the chiller used to cool the church. Consider an outreach to parishioners to see if there are any of them in the building trades who might work with us for reasonable rates or on a volunteer basis.

Action Step #1 to achieve Goal 3:

We already have a committee in place that has put a good deal of thought and planning into achieving our goal. The challenge is to assess our financial capability to finish each project and to set priorities for completion.

Action Step # 2 to achieve Goal 3:

We have \$40,000 of funds earmarked and available for renovating the church hall, including renovating the kitchen, renovating and making the bathrooms handicapped-accessible, and repairing the ceiling. There is a need to coordinate these renovations with our parish need for a meeting place so that other venues can be explored.

Action Step #3 to achieve Goal 3:

Consider a capital improvement campaign over the winter to raise funds for replacing the chiller.

Action Step #4 to achieve Goal 3:

Communicate through the bulletin or announcements at Mass a request for interested parishioners who are interested in who are interested in helping with helping with renovations to contact us. Possibly compile a directory of all parishioners who have businesses of any kind for future work.