

Pastoral Planning Update

Over a hectic three week period, parish and school teams worked to move the Pastoral Plan forward toward implementation.

The culmination of the first week was a modification, where necessary, of the mission statements based on all the suggestions made in the previous months of meetings. The proposed Mission Statements (yet to be ratified by their respective councils) are:

St. Andrew Catholic Church Mission Statement:

As Catholics, united in our belief in Jesus Christ and His call to love and serve in charity and justice, the St. Andrew Parish Family is dedicated to live out His word through celebration of the sacraments, education, and evangelization. (Changes in italics)

St. Andrew Catholic School Mission Statement:

(After discussion, no changes were made.)

The second week was dedicated to examining the areas of concern developed during the summer months and consolidated at the Church and School Convocations. These concerns were distilled into major goals. Church and School teams will plan to achieve these goals over the next 3 to 5 years. The goals are:

Church:

1. **Organization/Master Plan:** In 3 to 5 years the parish will be vitalized by a well-communicated Master Plan that will include appropriate and adequate facilities, parishioner involvement will increase, freeing the clergy for spiritual concerns, and resource management will be improved.
2. **Sacramental Life:** In 3 to 5 years we will increase respect/reverence by parishioners through formation/education.
3. **Welcome/Hospitality/Belonging/Commitment:** In 3 to 5 years we will be a larger, happier parish, -- loving and giving toward others – willing to serve others and our parish with an evangelizing spirit, attending parish activities and events, both spiritual and social.
4. **Youth:** In 3 to 5 years our full-time paid youth minister is leading the youth in a vibrant, fun, faith-based program that is attracting and keeping the youth.

School:

1. **Curriculum:** We will design a curriculum that will motivate students to love learning, incorporate the best methodologies, and meet educational needs at all levels.
2. **Positive Learning Environment:** We will foster a happy environment for students, faculty, staff and parents that is welcoming, embodies fair and equitable discipline and develops enthusiastic teachers, students, volunteers, parents, priests, and administration.
3. **Church/School Relationship:** We will create unity between the Church and School and the parish will recognize the School as an important ministry.
4. **Facilities:** We will develop a Master Plan
5. **Finance:** We will maximize revenue while making St. Andrew Catholic School available to the entire parish community.

The third week the teams closely **analyzed** the goals and developed actionable plans to move toward these goals between now and next October. The planning Consultant, Mary Raley, will combine these goals and action plans into the final version of the Parish and School Pastoral Plan.

At the next meetings of the Church and School (January 11 and January 9, respectively) the final drafts of the plans will be reviewed. Parishioners present at the January meetings will review the plans and begin developing reporting and communication systems.

The final task will be to validate that the major initiatives prioritized at the Church and School Convocations are reflected appropriately in the plan.

Please be looking for the meeting invitations in early January and plan to attend these important final meetings. And then the real work begins – implementation!