Our Mission

Sacred Heart Parish’s primary mission is to carry on the work of Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To that end, the Parish works to provide an environment that enhances the sense of belonging for all parishioners who are called to worship the Father, to promote the teachings of Jesus Christ by their daily lives, and to manifest the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world.

Analysis of Parish Evangelization Efforts

There are a number of parish events that occur at Sacred Heart to engage our parish family and surrounding community. Twenty-seven events were identified that occur in weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly frequency. A substantial majority of these take place on parish grounds. After these activities were analyzed, we could get a better idea of the wider scope of what the parish does on a daily basis. This analysis was done based on three criteria: if they match with a Diocesan priority, if they exhibit a sign of a vibrant parish, and who these activities serve. Based upon the Diocesan priorities, there is a pretty even distribution between the three categories (Figure 1). In terms of the seven signs of a vibrant parish, our parish is very strong in ongoing faith formation and welcoming activities, but we lack in areas of personal discipleship, stewardship, and outreach to the marginalized (Figure 2). Finally, in terms of who these programs are reaching, almost three quarters of our activities tailor to those who are baptized Catholic and are active within the parish (Figure 3).

Developing a Plan

After these areas of need were established, Father in conjunction with the Pastoral Council developed a number of action items that could help in increase our evangelization efforts. A list of nine was developed with strategies and action steps to accomplish these goals. However, to avoid spreading our manpower to thin and to ensure the completion of these goals, three were selected by means of an average ranking system. Those three were:

1. Develop a Youth Ministry Program
2. Deepen the Faith Experiences of Adults
3. Become a More Welcoming Parish

Since the Pastoral Plan is a living document, the next objectives will be started when the first ones have been properly implemented or completed.
Developing A Youth Ministry Program

Our Objective

To appoint/hire a youth ministry director. This person shall start a comprehensive Youth Ministry of service, Catechesis, faith formation and social activities that tailor to the needs of our junior high and high school students.

Action Steps

- Approve budgets involving hiring a new member of staff
- Hire a Youth Ministry Director
- Implement a Youth activities curriculum that engages young people in their faith
- Encourage Parents to model a life of devoted faith to their children

Who Will Be Involved

Father, Parish Finance Council, Youth Ministry Lead, Parents of Students

This activity will form intentional disciples, lead to ongoing faith formation, and primarily engage those who are baptized Catholic and active in the parish. Youth are certainly welcome to invite their friends though.

Deepen Faith Experiences of Adults

Our Objective

Through the continual offering of high-quality programs like TSS and Bible Study, we can deepen the faith experiences and faith development of those who attend. In addition, by adding additional programs like a yearly Speaker series and Faith Movie Nights, we can engage those who might not be active within the parish family.

Action Steps

- Continue with our high quality adulty programs like TSS and Bible Studies
- Identify Speakers or Speaker Topics that could make engaging material that would interest the broader community
- Set up Speaker event with speaker
- Advertise speaker series in local bulletins and on the local radio station.
- Encourage Parishioner involvement with personal invitations to outsiders and fallen away Catholics
- Encourage participation in the work of Gideon Barr at SEMO

Who Will Be Involved

Father, Parish Council, Bible Study Lead, TSS Lead, Parish Administrative Assistant

This objective will form intentional disciples, lead to ongoing faith formation, and engage people interested in learning more about the topic being discussed by the speaker.
Becoming a More Welcoming Parish

Our Objective

By encouraging more active involvement in engaging those who choose to visit or become a part of our parish family, we can more effectively make them feel as if they truly belong at Sacred Heart. This is no easy task, and takes a lot of effort. However, this activity had by far the most discussion in the Pastoral Plan meetings about ideas and action steps to possibly implement.

Action Steps

• Create or find a “Mass Guide” to insert into the pews. The information in the Missalette is not apparent to visitors or non-Catholics.
• Add a page number board to the front of Church to aid in finding pages in the Missalette for the readings.
• Start a Stewardship Drive to give parishioners who are both new and old the chance to involve or inform themselves of all the activities, service opportunities, and Catholic groups that are active within the parish.
• Invite our young men to more actively participate as Mass Servers
• For an Outreach Team to contact former parishioners and fallen away Catholics
• Put the Mass Schedule on a postcard and send it out to the entire Parish Directory on major Catholic holidays
• Identify businesses or parishioners’ homes that could serve as good area to advertise the parish with signage
• Put up signage (already purchased and in Old Kitchen)
• Update the Parish Directory
• Create Parish Family of the Month Bios for the bulletin so people can get the opportunity to learn about each other more.
• Create a welcoming basket for new parishioners and converts to the Faith (called the “Welcome Packet”).

Who Will Be Involved

Parish Administrative Assistant, Eric Harmon (lead Mass Server), Music Lead, Outreach Team, Parishioners with highway frontage or busy intersections at their homes or businesses.

This objective will allow us to be sent forth to witness, and engage in welcoming activities. It will primarily involve baptized Catholics who are active in the parish, but those Catholics will be reaching out to those who are either unfamiliar with Catholicism or fallen away Catholics.

Conclusion

In conclusion, if the strategies and actions laid out in this document are fully completed, the parish will have more active and involved faithful. This will not be easy, but as Proverbs 14:23 says so eloquently, “In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to want”.

Sacred Heart
Catholic Church
Figures and Charts

Figure 1

Diocesan Priorities by Category

- Being Sent Forth to Witness
- Forming Intentional Disciples
- Growing in Holiness

Figure 2

PARISH ACTIVITIES BY CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcoming</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-going Faith</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encountering</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noble Simplicity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach to the</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3

PARTICIPATION CATEGORIES

- Baptized Catholic and active in parish: 74%
- Baptized, but not active in the parish: 22%
- May not be baptized, no engagement with parish: 4%