



St. Basil the Great Strategic Plan

February 2009

For the Spiritual Growth of our Parish Community

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Dear Parishioners:

I am pleased to share with you our recently developed parish strategic plan. As you may recall, in January 2008, The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University conducted an in-pew parish life survey during weekend liturgies. A total of 2,172 valid respondents provided valuable assessment information to guide us in developing a parish strategic plan. In March 2008, we received CARA's Parish Life Assessment Report. In April 2008, a CARA representative presented a summary of the findings to our Parish Council, Finance Council, Parish Commission Leadership, and Parish Staff. Additionally, we held a parish Town Hall meeting to communicate the assessment results to parishioners.

In May 2008, we retained a facilitator to assist in the development of a parish strategic plan. The facilitator conducted 14 focus group sessions attended by approximately 225 parishioners. We established a parish Strategic Planning Committee and, with the help of the facilitator, developed strategic initiatives, strategies, and goals by year-end, December 2008.

The timeline of the plan is three years, but many of the new initiatives will guide the parish over the next ten years or more. In addition to the strategic plan, the annual parish operating plan for 2009 is presented within. The operating plan focuses on activities over a twelve-month period.

I ask that you review both plans, and I personally invite you to become engaged in the implementation process of our strategic plan. Several steering committees will be developed with numerous opportunities for parishioner involvement. We need you! We have a lot of work to do. As we begin to implement one of the most comprehensive plans in our parish history, I am inspired by the support of our parish community in fulfilling our call to discipleship, as guided by the Holy Spirit. I believe the timing of our plan is appropriate as we look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary in June 2010. Thank you for all you do on behalf of St. Basil the Great Parish. May our loving and merciful God bless you and your family.

In His Love,

Fr. Walter H. Jenne

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Continue to build a stronger parish community by responding to the call to be disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Expand all Evangelization efforts to reach out to both active and inactive parishioners.
- Identify and/or develop a Young Adult Ministry model specifically addressing the needs of young adults in our parish.
- Commit the necessary resources to expand our Life Teen Ministry.
- Explore and implement the best practices to expand Family Ministry and Spirituality Programs for families at our parish.
- Enhance Ministries to Older Adults.
- Pledge full cooperation to the implementation of the Cluster Plan and collaboration with neighboring parishes as presented in our Vibrant Parish Life II Cluster Plan.

OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

- Enhance parish communications.
- Maintain our facilities and physical campus.
- Expand social service outreach.
- Explore the feasibility of building a Eucharistic Adoration Chapel during the next three years.
- Establish succession planning.

Continue to build a stronger parish community by responding to the call to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Expand all Evangelization efforts to reach out to both active and inactive parishioners.

Strengthen our relationship as disciples of Christ through lifelong formation in the Catholic Faith.

Offer additional faith formation opportunities and develop additional spiritual life programs.

- Continue to strive to be a Christian community that is committed to follow Jesus Christ, inviting and welcoming all to our parish community.
- Address the spiritual needs of those serving in parish ministries in order to strengthen them in the discipleship initiative of St. Basil the Great Parish.
- Build on the current process to capture new parishioners' professional skills and talents, inviting them to share those talents. Communicate that "We need you" as disciples.
- Review existing ministries annually. Determine the effectiveness, use of resources, leadership succession, and alignment with our parish call to discipleship.

- Introduce a lifelong learning continuum that will provide educational opportunities for all age levels emphasizing our individual baptismal call and the response and role of each parishioner in evangelizing.
- Accept the responsibility to evangelize and assist others who are seeking to live a life of discipleship.
- Promote and live the gospel values in our daily lives.
- Expand the role of the Neighborhood Networks and provide the resources needed to assist individual Neighborhood Networks.
- Establish an ongoing evangelization effort that provides personal contact with all registered parishioners annually.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

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INITIATIVES

Identify and/or develop a Young Adult Ministry model specifically addressing the needs of young adults in our parish.

Commit the necessary resources to expand our Life Teen Ministry.

STRATEGIES

Make a commitment to minister to young adults.

St. Basil the Great Life Teen will expand elements of its ministry to continue providing catechetical, social, and service opportunities for the teenagers of the parish.

GOALS

- Identify and/or develop the best method to welcome young adults into our parish community and engage them.
- Provide opportunities for young adults to be placed in leadership positions on Councils and Ministries within the parish.
- Pledge the necessary resources to the young adults in our parish so they feel that they are a key part of the parish.
- Develop a Young Adult Steering Committee which would begin to address the unique needs of young adults in our parish community and give direction to the appropriate Commissions/Ministries for responding to these needs.

- Minister to all teenagers of our parish community utilizing the Life Teen model.
- Recruit additional Core members to minister as part of the Life Teen expansion.
- Address the spiritual needs of Life Teen Core members.
- Minister to parents of Life Teen participants with special life nights/retreats designed for parents.
- Continue providing existing service projects (ASP, CHWC), and add local service opportunities.
- Begin a program ministering to middle school students that will prepare them for Life Teen.
- Expand Core Support sub-ministries to meet the specific needs of the Life Teen program and its teenagers.
- Provide the necessary training required to Core members in order to continue the program's effectiveness.
- Provide all necessary resources to establish and grow this ministry.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Explore and implement the best practices to expand Family Ministry and Spirituality Programs for families at our parish.

Provide new opportunities for the large number of families currently in the parish.

- Continue to develop and expand spiritual activities that address the needs of families.
- Develop a Family Ministry and Spirituality Steering Committee to define and respond to the spiritual needs of families in our parish.
- Provide Liturgy of the Word for children that will foster opportunities for family conversations about the Sunday Gospel.
- Provide Catholic reading materials and bible stories for families.

Enhance Ministries to Older Adults.

Continue to engage older adults because the St. Basil Parish Community values their participation, experience, wisdom, and discipleship.

- Continue to engage the older adult population of our parish and reinforce their importance to our parish life community.
- Address the sacramental and faith formation needs of people unable to attend Mass.
- Strengthen and enhance the visitation and frequency of visitation to homebound parishioners and those who are in care facilities.
- Identify and evaluate ministry models which successfully serve older adults.
- Develop a Steering Committee which includes expertise that can define the expanding needs of older adults within our parish community.
- Explore existing services for the older adults in our communities and provide aid to link parishioners with these services i.e., hot meal programs.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Pledge full cooperation to the implementation of the Cluster Plan and collaboration with neighboring parishes as presented in our Vibrant Parish Life II Cluster Plan.

Follow Cluster Criteria established by the Diocese of Cleveland:

- Continue to explore collaborative possibilities to strengthen pastoral care in an equitable manner among neighboring parishes;
- Strengthen evangelization and the social and community services that serve the surrounding neighborhoods;
- Engage all of the faithful in regularly attending and participating in the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy;
- Continue to support Church in the City partnerships through cluster-to-cluster cooperation;
- Continue to monitor enrollment trends and collaborate to ensure the long-term presence of strong, stable Catholic schools serving this area.

- Begin to implement the Cluster Plan in 2009 with Assumption, St. Matthias, and St. Michael Parishes (South Hills Catholic Cluster).
- Continue to communicate collaborative efforts with all parishioners of cluster parishes.

INITIATIVES

STRATEGIES

GOALS

OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

Enhance Parish Communications.

Communicate regularly with all parishioners in a coordinated communications program.

- Develop a parish Communications Steering Committee that works towards consistency in the delivery of all communications to parishioners.

Maintain our Facilities and Physical Campus.

Continue to maintain the buildings and grounds of the parish campus.

- Continue to be good stewards of the physical assets of our parish campus including buildings, grounds, equipment, and landscape.
- Develop and provide information about the St. Basil Endowment Fund to the parish community.
- Continue to evaluate the physical needs for additional space for liturgical purposes, meeting space, child care, and community activities.
- Evaluate the cost and feasibility of renovating the parish convent.
- Communicate the potential development of a gas well on the parish property, with initial revenue used to support Youth, Young Adult Ministry, Family Ministry and Spirituality, Older Adults, and other initiatives in the parish strategic plan.

OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

Expand Social Service Outreach.

Explore the feasibility of building a Eucharistic Adoration Chapel during the next three years.

Build on all the existing social outreach efforts and continue to explore the possibility of establishing a relationship with an urban parish.

Assess the commitment/support of parishioners to expand the devotion and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at our parish.

- Develop additional opportunities for parishioners and families to be involved in social ministries and outreach activities to the urban and rural areas of the Diocese.
- Continue to support and strengthen the parish partnership with San Francisco de Asis in Honduras.

- Determine the feasibility of a 24 hour / 7 day-a-week adoration commitment to increase the opportunity for the parish to expand the adoration ministry.

OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

INITIATIVES

Establish Succession Planning.

STRATEGIES

To maintain the vibrancy of the parish, each ministry must develop a succession plan. The current parish vitality and outreach provided by each ministry have the potential to be at risk unless there is planning for the future. Our parish has an opportunity to expand its leadership base and allow for fresh ideas and new perceptions to be discussed and implemented.

GOALS

- Require each Commission/Ministry to develop a leadership succession plan with ongoing formation.

A DISCIPLE'S PRAYER

Guide our minds and hearts, dear God,
As we learn to live as true disciples of Your Son.

Nurture in each of us a disciple's heart:

A heart that rejoices in Your love,

A heart sustained by Your spirit,

A heart encouraged by fellow disciples.

May there grow in each of our hearts
the disciple's willingness to learn,
the disciple's commitment to serve,
and the disciple's joy
in sharing Your unconditional love
with others.

Amen.

Parish Mission Statement

“St. Basil the Great is a Faith Community united by love for Jesus Christ, which worships together, passes on the Good News, serves the needs of others, and works for peace and justice as a living sign of Christ’s presence in our Community.”