



PARISH OF THE HOLY CROSS **PASTORAL PLAN**

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

We, the people of the Parish of the Holy Cross, are a multi-cultural parish of the young and the elderly, married and single, healthy and broken. We welcome all to come together and give praise and thanks to God. Through the celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments and devotions of the Church, we reach out in mercy and compassion and share the joy of the Gospel throughout our large community. Here, with the support, strength, and inspiration we receive from one another, we are nourished daily on our journey of faith.

The Pastoral Plan of the Parish of the Holy Cross seeks to bring to life the Parish Mission Statement and to spread the Joy of the Gospel throughout our large community as we share God's mercy and compassion in word and action.

I. EVANGELIZATION

The mission to evangelize was given by Our Lord Jesus himself who said: "Go...make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20).

In a September, 2013 interview, Pope Francis urges us to "step outside" ourselves and to "go to those who do not attend Mass, to those who have quit or are indifferent."

The Parish of the Holy Cross will:

Establish an Evangelization program to spread the joy of the Gospel to active and non-active members of our community and to strengthen our personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Our Lord and Savior.

Under consideration are the following action items:

- The development of a questionnaire and/or survey that reaches out to "absent members" of our community.
- The initiation of "Street Evangelization" that reaches out to and engages the community at large.

II. SPIRITUALITY and LAY FORMATION

The Parish of the Holy Cross will:

Support and strengthen current Spirituality ministries that exist in the parish by actively increasing membership, improved communications on the goals and activities of the ministries and facilitating planning among the ministry leaders.

Actively seek Lay leadership and provide training through the diocese or the parish, support parishioners during The Year of Mercy of God's love for each of us, in our call to live the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Under consideration are the following action items:

- Annual Parish Retreat
- Promote a greater understanding of God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and our call as followers of Jesus Christ to love and forgive one another.
- Faith Renewal and Education Programs

III. WELCOMING and HOSPITALITY

The Parish of the Holy Cross will:

Establish a *Welcoming and Hospitality Program* charged with implementing a process to coordinate *all* welcoming activities, including “greeters” at liturgical celebrations and parish social events and welcoming new members into our parish family.

Under consideration are the following action items:

- Recruit and Train additional church greeters.
- Develop a welcoming packet and a parish ministry directory for new parishioners.

IV. MERCY and COMPASSIONATE OUTREACH

The Parish of the Holy Cross will:

Support and strengthen current Mercy and Compassionate Outreach ministries that exist in the parish by actively increasing membership, improved communications on the goals and activities of the ministries and facilitating planning among the ministry leaders.

Under consideration are the following action items:

- Support parishioners, during the Year of Mercy, in a better understanding of the Corporal Works of Mercy.
- In addition to the many acts of mercy going on now, develop a caring program to help parishioners who are experiencing a life changing event.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

The Parish of the Holy Cross will:

Continue to enhance parish communications by maximizing the use of technology and media to spread the joy of the Gospel and to communicate with the parishioners and others living in our community.

VI. ENCULTURATION

The Parish of the Holy Cross will:

Establish an Enculturation Program to determine events and programs to bring our community together as one parish family of faith while at the same time respecting the gifts and differences of our respective cultures.

Under consideration are the following action items:

- Host bi-lingual events that will instruct on Divine Mercy culminating in a bilingual Divine Mercy Sunday celebration.
- Plan a bilingual Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC during the Year of Mercy.

VII. VOCATIONS

The Parish of the Holy Cross will:

Establish a Vocations Program that provides an understanding of the vocation of priesthood, diaconate and religious life, and assists parishioners in discerning a call to a vocation.

Under consideration are the following action items:

- The development of a discernment program to nurture a calling to serve as a priest, deacon or religious.
- Create a film showing "A Day in the Life of a Priest, Deacon or Sister" for our youth and young adults.
- Plan a trip to the seminary for boys & young men and visit a local seminary.
- Plan a trip to a Mother House of a Religious Community for girls and young women of the parish.
- Prayer opportunities to gather and pray for vocations with guest speakers/seminarians/discerning individuals.

VIII. YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

The Parish of the Holy Cross will:

Support and strengthen current Teens for Christ Youth ministry that exist in the parish by actively increasing membership, improved communications on the goals and activities of the ministries and facilitating planning among the ministry leaders.

Under consideration are the following action items:

- Create a dynamic Young Adult ministry, including young families.
- The development of education and social programs that reach out to parents of children in the parish PREP Program, as the key to youth involvement is greater parental involvement.
- Invite teens and young adults to take a more active role in parish ministries and mentor Catholic leadership skills, exploring opportunities to create a youth council of teens or inclusion of teens in roles within Pastoral Council.

IX. FACILITIES

The Parish of the Holy Cross will:

Establish and implement a short and long term plan for the continued maintenance needs of our facilities.

Under consideration are the following action items:

- Establish volunteer rosters of parishioners and friends of the parish who have expertise in various maintenance skills.
- Coordinate a plan in conjunction with the Parish Finance Committee.

Psalm 27:4

"One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple."