

Pastoral Plan 2016 - 2019

Corpus Christi Catholic Church Carol Stream, IL

Three Pillars:



**Discipleship
Evangelization
Charity**

“We are Many Parts. We are all One Body.”

Preface

This is a working document based on the pastoral framework developed by the Diocese of Joliet.

It offers a roadmap for members of our parish community as we work together to:

- Enhance our personal encounter with Jesus Christ (Discipleship);
- Proclaim and share our Catholic faith with all (Evangelization); and
- Go outside our church doors to care for people in need (Charity).

Our plan focuses our pastoral ministries and initiatives on seven goals deemed to be the most critical by the Diocese:

1. Cultivate a personal encounter with Jesus in order to joyfully share the Gospel as a knowledgeable and responsible disciple. (Discipleship)
2. Inspire young adults to participate as lay leaders in the mission of the Catholic Church. (Discipleship)
3. Embrace newly-arrived immigrant Catholics and encourage their development as leaders in the Church. (Discipleship)
4. Seek, invite, and welcome Catholics who have drifted away from the Church. (Evangelization)
5. Emphasize and outwardly proclaim the importance of the sacraments, our sacred rituals and all vocations. (Evangelization)
6. Go outside your church doors to care for people in need. (Charity)
7. Advocate for and with people in need as the Gospel instructs you to do. (Charity)

The following pages explain how our pastoral actions support the goals set forth by the Diocese.

1. Cultivate a personal encounter with Jesus in order to joyfully share the Gospel as a knowledgeable and responsible disciple.

Our strengths and weaknesses:

Our Corpus Christi community offers a large array of opportunities for youth and adults to expand and deepen their faith lives and every group joyfully welcomes newcomers to participate and share.

After gaining knowledge and understanding the responsibilities of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, we need more people to take the next step: to be ministry leaders in the parish and evangelizers of their faith to the wider community.

Our pastoral initiatives:

Youth: Faith formation and growth in discipleship outside of the Sacraments begins at the grade school age and continues with middle school and high school teens via multiple youth programs, including:

- Corpus Christian Camp,
- involvement with the TOTUS TUUS initiative,
- the Rice Bowl collection,
- toy collection for Dominican Literary Center,
- Camp WOW,
- Camp ROCK,
- the Rise retreat,
- the Graduation Mass,
- the Dead Theologians Society/ Lighthouse groups,
- participation in the Diocese Youth Leadership Conference,
- and the annual Youth Mission trip.

Small Groups: We also encourage the creation of small groups that are focused on sharing faith experiences, gaining a better understanding of Catholic Church teachings, and working together in support projects. These groups include:

- Christ Renews His Parish – CRHP,
- men’s and women’s Cursillo communities,
- the Fatima Rosary group,
- the Prayer Network,
- Bible Study gatherings,
- CCW Food Depository initiative,
- birthday card and anniversary initiative,
- Madonna della Croce,
- and Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament.

Larger Groups: Annually and semi-annually, we gather together larger groups of parishioners to deepen their knowledge of the richness of the Catholic faith. These gatherings include:

- Regularly scheduled faith formation for current liturgical ministers,
- a Saints Tea and a spiritual reflections event by the Council of Catholic Women (CCW),
- Pilgrimages to churches. (by bus or cars)
- a Christmas music concert.
- Divine Mercy novena
- Blessing of Easter food

2. Inspire young adults to participate as lay leaders in the mission of the Catholic Church.

Our strengths and weaknesses:

We have a small core of single and married young adults (ages 22 to 39) who are living in the neighborhood, raising their families in the parish community and attending Mass regularly.

We need to develop more faith-based and mission-based opportunities that fit the time schedule and interests of young adults. Through greater participation in church life, we can find new, long-term leaders for the parish.

Our pastoral initiatives:

Invite to Serve: Providing service and feeling a sense of being needed within the parish may be the best way to get young adults (ages 22 to 39) involved in the life of the Church. We are beginning to ask young adults for their support to help within the community and within the parish.

- single day Mini-Missions
- bike trip pilgrimage to churches
- Ministry Fair

3. Embrace newly-arrived immigrant Catholics and encourage their development as leaders in the Church.

Our strengths and weaknesses:

Our parish includes a growing and active Filipino community and we have an opportunity to welcome more Polish immigrants into our faith community.

We need to identify additional leaders in the Filipino and Polish cultural communities for wider leadership roles in the church. We also need to welcome cultural communities (Indian? Latino?) that may be “hidden” in our parish.

Our pastoral initiatives:

Identify Leaders: Through cultural-based events, we will identify future leaders and invite them to take a more active and participatory role in parish ministries.

- Simbang Gabi event
- Couples for Christ
- Mass in Polish
- Taste of Corpus Christi

4. Seek, invite, and welcome Catholics who have drifted away from the Church.

Our strengths and weaknesses:

We offer formal opportunities (Genesis, RCIA, etc.) to welcome Catholics who have not received the Sacraments and to welcome converts to Catholicism.

We need to use other Sacramental “touch points” in a person’s life such as their wedding or their child’s baptism to invite them back to a fuller life in the Catholic Church. We also need to find ways to proactively seek out Catholics in the local community who have withdrawn themselves from the parish, the Liturgy and the Eucharist.

Our pastoral initiatives:

Sacraments as a Doorway: Through Sacraments such as Baptism, Confirmation and Matrimony, we touch the lives of Catholics. For those who want to participate in the Sacrament, but are rarely present at the weekly Liturgy, this is an opportunity to reach out and rekindle their Catholic faith. As they walk into our doors for these programs, we need to invite them and welcome them back to our community:

- Genesis class
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
- Adult Confirmation Prep
- Baptism Prep
- Wedding Prep
- Family Mass

Gatherings as a Doorway: Through faith-based and social events, we can offer to Catholics who have drifted away from their Church a doorway back to the parish and to their faith.

- Passion Play
- Living Stations of the Cross
- Blessing of pets
- Parish picnic
- NFL Championship Sunday event

5. Emphasize and outwardly proclaim the importance of the sacraments, our sacred rituals and all vocations.

Our strengths and weaknesses:

Over the years, we have steadily increased our presence and demonstrated our faith and our Catholic “uniqueness” in the local neighborhood and the community at large.

Find ways to be a little bolder and more creative in publicly proclaiming our Catholic self-esteem. Also promote religious vocations when possible.

Our pastoral initiatives:

Proclaiming to the Community: Our Catholic Sacraments and sacred rituals occur on a daily basis within our church, but there are occasions when these important actions should be seen and heard outside of our doors. Our parish is connected to a larger community and our faith in Jesus should be available for all to see and experience. Here are the initiatives that outwardly proclaim our Sacraments and rituals:

- Corpus Christi Feast Day procession
- May Crowning
- traveling Rosary
- Milestone Marriage blessing
- Baptism sewers

6. Go outside your church doors to care for people in need.

Our strengths and weaknesses:

We have found many ways to care for people in need and many parishioners support these efforts. We support our brothers and sisters monetarily, materially, and on a person-to-person basis. We strive to follow the example of the Good Samaritan.

A core group of parishioners perform the key tasks of helping people in need. We need to broaden this group considerably and find new and younger leaders to take on the work that Jesus expects of us as his Disciples.

Our pastoral initiatives:

Face-to-Face Support: Our presence offers comfort and tangible aid to our brothers and sisters in need:

- PADS outreach
- Youth-trip to Chicago
- Emergency outreach to parishioners
- Ministers of Care Eucharist for the homebound
- Children of Mary
- Knights of Columbus at Hines VA hospital

Material Support: Through the ministry of our St. Vincent DePaul chapter and through larger parish efforts, we offer food, clothing and heartfelt care to individuals and communities in need:

- food collections
- clothing (& coat) collections
- Thanksgiving dinners
- Christmas Gift Adopt-a-Family
- Christmas dinners
- Easter dinners
- blanket and towel collections
- Undy Sunday
- Cookies for prisoners
- CCW support for abused women shelter

Monetary support: We use the treasure God has given to us and share it with people in need near and far:

- St. Joseph Table
- Souper Bowl Sunday
- Transitional Housing Bunco Night
- Baby Bottle collection
- Knights of Columbus Pancake breakfasts

7. Advocate for and with people in need as the Gospel instructs you to do.

Our strengths and weaknesses:

Groups within the Corpus Christi parish work for social justice through efforts that truly improve peoples' lives.

Often, our social justice efforts occur without gaining much recognition within the parish community or the larger neighborhood community. More recognition is needed and more social justice "workers" are needed "in the field" so that more people are helped and more lives are improved.

Our pastoral initiatives:

Work for Dignity: We work with members of our community to sustain them during challenging times in their lives and to improve their circumstances. We have two major programs:

- St. Vincent DePaul outreach, aid and referrals
- Transitional Housing outreach and support
- Register voters

Work for Life: With a visible presence in the community, we advocate for the sacredness of human life as a gift from God. We focus on these initiatives:

- Respect Life white crosses
- Life Chain
- 40 Days for Life

Parish Pastoral Council Initiatives for 2016-17

Spirituality to Leadership

- Develop approaches to mobilize past participants in the Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) program to take a “spiritual” step forward - - to be ministry leaders in the parish and evangelizers of their faith to the wider community. (*Discipleship – Small Group Formation*)
 - Possibly get these past participants to develop “single-day” faith formation programs with a focus on young adults (ages 22 to 39).
- For the Ministry Fair/time and talent initiative, how would we improve this effort? Should more be done than setting up tables during Mass? (*Discipleship – Invite to Serve*)
 - Possibly use social gatherings and parish meetings as an opportunity to solicit support.
 - How and when should people be solicited? Where should they be solicited? And with what materials?
 - Should every Ministry have "tools" to be able to solicit people all year round and at any social or educational event?
 - Possibly develop simple double sided flyers. i.e., "Liturgical Ministries at Corpus Christi." Another is "Outreach Ministries." Or "Social Events." And everyone in the ministries could distribute them.
 - What else? Flyers in home mailboxes? Blast emails to home PCs?

Spirituality/Sacraments to Leadership

- For the Baptism Preparation ministry and the Wedding Preparation ministry, find ways to proactively seek out Catholics in the local community who have withdrawn themselves from the parish. Use the Liturgy, the Eucharist and these Sacramental “touch points” in a person’s life to invite them back to a fuller life in the Catholic Church. (*Evangelization – Sacraments as a Doorway*)
 - Possibly be a conduit for engaged couples and new parents in the community and help them reach out to each other for support during this time of transition.

Good Works/Service to Spirituality

- Support the expansion of faith-based and mission-based opportunities that fit the time schedule and interests of young adults. (*Discipleship – Invite to Serve*)
 - Help the leader of the one-day Mini-Mission initiative to publicize the event within the parish, locate people in need, and expand parishioner participation. Evaluate who the “people in need” are - - recent widows and widowers? Shut-ins?
- Develop more single-day “active” events such as the Divine Mercy bike pilgrimage that attract both the energetic and spiritual interest of young adults. Motorcycle rallies? Mass/mini-marathons? (*Discipleship – Invite to serve*)

- Work with the parish staff to develop an infrastructure that supports continuing and effective faith formation for current liturgical ministers. The structure also needs to consider the limited resources of the parish and the current workload and time constraints of the parish staff. (*Charity/Service – Large Group Formation*)
 - Issues to consider: What is the aim? To help ministers deepen their faith? To make them better at their ministry? To build teamwork among the ministries? Or to help them get a better understanding of their ministry?
 - What would make it a session that everyone would want to attend? How do you make it interesting?
 - Is it for Liturgical AND Outreach ministers?
 - How can it be developed and sustained without burdening the staff and without costing too much.

PPC Oversight

- Appoint Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) members to lead in the development of each of these six initiatives. Each leader will provide updates and reports on progress at every PPC meeting.

In the Future

At each PPC meeting, determine if any of these initiatives should be moved from the secondary group to the primary group.

Leadership

- For the men's and women's Cursillo communities and for participation in the Diocese Youth Leadership Conference, find more people to take the next step and to be ministry leaders in the parish and evangelizers of their faith to the wider community. (*Discipleship – Small Group Formation*)

Embrace

- Expand our reach out to Catholic families in the community with older children who have received no previous faith formation. Offer to them reasons why the Genesis Class would be beneficial for their children. (*Evangelization – Sacraments as a Doorway*)

Outreach

- Help the PADS ministry and the St. Vincent DePaul ministry to broaden their core group of volunteers and their missions. (*Charity – Work for Dignity*)
 - How can each group expand their outreach in order to help more people in need?
 - Enhance the spirituality and discipleship of more parishioners through the charitable works done by these ministries.
 - Can these groups be a foundation for a social justice effort within our parish that can more permanently improve the lives of people in need?