

Growing an Engaged Church
St. John Neumann Pastoral Plan for 2017-2020
Pastor's Update: Fall 2018

We have concluded the first year of the 2017-2020 Pastoral Plan and are now into year two. As you may recall the plan focuses on the five areas of parish life, which are Community, Worship, Formation, Service, and Stewardship.

Last Spring I reported on the progress made meeting the objectives for the first year of the plan. In many cases, we had successfully completed the objectives. If the objective was met last Spring, I will simply comment "met objective." In objectives that had not been completed I will comment on the status. Please see the actual Pastoral Plan for the 2018-2019 objectives. Also, please know that some objectives such as encouraging small faith communities, promoting Salesian spirituality, and incorporating Catholic Social teachings are shared by one or two areas of parish life.

Overall, the plan continues to be successful. We, as a parish, have accomplished a great deal this first year especially in regard to community and formation. For example, a Newcomers Reception has been developed that is held four times a year to welcome and acquaint new parishioners to the life of the parish and to experience SJN hospitality. Enhancing out-reach to the Hispanic Community is going well. In fact, a tutoring program has been initiated by the Hispanic leadership team to help students needing support in different academic areas. We have begun to implement several bi-lingual Masses especially around certain Holy Days. Another big success is the ARISE Small Faith Communities that have completed the first six week session. The second session will be during the six weeks of Lent.

As a personal observation, I believe one of the highlights has been the spirit of the plan which is alive in the different areas of parish life. Often, I will hear parishioners comment on a certain ministry that "in the spirit of the Pastoral Plan, we are doing this or perhaps we should be doing this." One of the hopeful outcomes of the Plan is growing an engaged church. I believe we are striving to do this even in the midst of the Church Sexual Abuse Crisis. In fact, the Action Group that was formed after the "Listening Session" held to address the issues of the Crisis at the local level is an example of living the spirit of the plan.

For everyone who has been a part of implementing the plan and those who will be in the future, a heartfelt thank you!

Live Jesus,

Father Joe

COMMUNITY: *All are Welcome is our Parish motto. We are committed to creating programs that bring that spirit to life and ensure that people of all ages, from diverse backgrounds and experiences, find ways to be engaged in parish life.*

- 1. Develop a formal new-parishioner welcome process: met objective - see Pastor's Update: Spring 2018**
We are still attempting to develop a ministry that will connect current parishioners with newly registered parishioners. **Carry objective over to 2018-2019.**
- 2. Enhance outreach to the Hispanic Community: met objective - see Pastor's Update: Spring 2018**
In addition to what was reported last Spring, a tutoring program has been initiated. There will be several bi-lingual Masses during the year especially around certain Holy Days.

WORSHIP: *Recognizing that the heart of parish life is the celebration of the Eucharist, we are committed to encouraging all parishioners to engage more fully in worship activities.*

- 1. Encourage greater participation by our youth and their parents in the Family Mass: met objective—see Pastor's Update: Spring 2018**
There has been success in this area but will need to continue to be attentive to changing needs.
- 2. Explore Ways to be more welcoming to all people in our liturgical services: met objective-see Pastor's Update: Spring 2018**
The parish is still exploring ways to increase safety awareness and refining practices in the hospitality/ushering ministries to better serve the people who attend our Masses.
- 3. Encourage carrying Sunday worship forward into the world by the way we live out the Gospel: met objective but always looking at ways to improve in this area.**

FORMATION: *Acknowledging each person's call to be a disciple of Christ, we are committed to fostering lifelong engagement and faith formation.*

- 1. Assess programs, Identify gaps at all levels of transition, and develop strategies to address them: met objective—see Pastor's Update: Spring 2018**
Though we have met the objective, faith formation is always a work in progress. Rooted the Faith Formation Program for the middle school is in its second year and experiencing positive feedback from students and parents. High School faith formation continues to grow under new leadership.
 - 2. Select and develop a parish-wide "Small Faith Community" program: met objective as well as implementing the program, which was an objective for the second year.**
Renew International's Arise program for small faith communities has just completed its first six week session. It has met with a lot of enthusiasm. There are some groups that are looking to grow in size.
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SERVICE: *Responding to the call to be a people of mercy and justice, we commit to incorporating Catholic Social Teaching as a living part of our faith and service.*

- 1. Educate about Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and its role in our parish life: met objective—see Pastor’s Update: Spring 2018**
- 2. Provide opportunities for education on CST: met objective—see Pastor’s Update: Spring 2018**
This objective will be a continuous one especially with our Faith Formation students.

STEWARDSHIP: *Answering the call to be good stewards of our parish resources, we are committed to empowering parishioners to pray, grow, serve, and use their gifts on behalf of our faith community.*

- 1. Engage parishioners in all aspects of parish life by defining all ministries, including contact info: met objective—see Pastor’s Update: Spring 2018**
 - 2. Promoting all ministries and groups in appropriate parish communications channels: progress made but still a work in progress.**
 - 3. Encouraging exploration of gifts and talents discovered through a prayerful discernment process: met objective—see Pastor’s Update: Spring 2018**
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