

2020

Corpus Christi Parish Strategic Plan

**Corpus Christi Parish, Council Bluffs, IA
Strategic Plan**

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I. INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Church is entrusted to us by Christ. The Church has as its primary mission: to proclaim the Good News, to welcome people into a community of faith, to be centered in the Eucharist, and to serve those in need. The plan for Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs, Iowa is firmly rooted in the hope and expectation that the mission of the Church can be carried out even more effectively than is currently being done.

The primary purpose of the Pastoral Strategic Plan is to give the leadership of the parish an agreed-upon path for decision-making that strategically achieves long-term goals. The plan calls for the people of God to be engaged personally and corporately in mission and ministry, living as intentional disciples of Jesus. It also provides practical direction and the resources needed to accomplish desired goals regarding volunteers, staffing, facilities, and funding. The pastor and pastoral council will evaluate the progress of the implementation on a regular basis.

The plan does not preclude or replace most already-existing ministries and programs but goes through a consolidation and merging process. Much of the current activity in the parish will continue. Over time, the plan initiatives will impact all the programs and activities in each area of ministry with a new focus on discipleship and evangelization.

PLANNING PROCESS

In July of 2019, the Corpus Christi strategic planning process continued with the support of the pastor and pastoral council, finance council and trustees. The process is facilitated by Meitler of Hales Corners, Wisconsin, who are national pastoral and Catholic school strategic planning consultants.

The process will include consultation on the plan with parish leaders and parishioners. With the due consultation with parish leaders and parishioners through various meetings and the recent town hall meeting done on August 21st, there is general consensus on its priorities and goals although a few people expressed some reservations. 140 people participated in the Town Hall and 86 percent of the people showed support for the plan and 14 percent showed some reservation. Meetings are scheduled to meet with them in small groups to bring the hearts along to the new beginning. Teams for each of the priorities are organized to design strategies for the implementation of each goal. Meitler will also provide assistance to these teams.

The plan has been made available to all leadership groups as well as parishioners. Ownership of and support for the plan by parishioners is critically important for an effective implementation. All parishioners were invited to participate in the planning process and to support as well as assist in the implementation. There is great support for this plan from the whole parish community.

II. VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Vision Statement – *parishes often develop a brief statement or phrase which captures where they want to be in the future. This vision is developed by the pastoral council.*

Corpus Christi Parish views this future plan as “**Vision 20/20.**” The vision guides the development of a **strategic plan for growth in discipleship and evangelization.** The 20/20 in the vision refers not only to the next decade in time but also to the ability to see and act more clearly in the future. This vision statement is based on the current mission statement (“To be the light of Christ shining in the heart of the community”) focused on “prayer, evangelization, education and loving service to those in need”.

Priorities -

A thorough community demographic and parish data study has helped to identify four priorities upon which the plan has been developed and that will shape the future of the parish for years to come:

1. Excellence in Liturgy and Hospitality

The parish recognizes that the Eucharist and the sacraments are at the center of community life and each person’s spirituality. Greater emphasis will be placed on hospitality, hymns, and homilies. *How effectiveness will be measured: an increase in Mass attendance, sacramental reception, and participation in other forms of communal prayer and devotion.*

2. Growth through Evangelization and Outreach to the Community

The parish has identified the Hispanic and senior communities as having great potential for membership growth. In connection with these efforts, greater focus will be given to reaching out to those in the community who need loving care and attention. *How effectiveness will be measured: an increase in membership, outreach activity, and parishioner participation in outreach activity.*

3. Increase in Small Groups and Faith Formation Opportunities

In order to engage and involve parishioners of all ages in the mission of the Church, effort will be directed to forming more small groups of adults and offering more opportunities for faith formation. *How effectiveness will be measured: an increase in the number of groups and participants as well as enrollment growth.*

4. Promotion of Stewardship and Consolidation

The parish recognizes its own role as well as that of each parishioner to respond to the call to be disciples through stewardship, in other words, to share what God has given us and to

use those gifts wisely. *How effectiveness will be measured: balanced budgets, an increase in financial stewardship, and an increase in the number of parishioners involved in ministries.*

III. PLAN OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

Corpus Christi Parish: “Vision 20/20 – Plan for Growth in Discipleship and Evangelization”

PRIORITY AREA	GOALS
Excellence in Liturgy and Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Mass schedule and opportunities for sacraments and prayer to maximize participation and attendance. • Provide enhanced training for liturgical ministries. • Expand music ministry.
Growth through Evangelization and Outreach to the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a ministry to invite members of the Hispanic community to join the parish. • Develop a ministry to serve seniors and to invite them to join the parish community. • Organize and expand the parish outreach ministries to people in need. • Support St. Albert School and engage school families.
Increase in Small Groups and Faith Formation Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form more small groups and invite all adult and young adult parishioners to participate. • Study and make recommendations regarding the faith formation opportunities for all members of the parish. • Develop youth and young adult ministries for high school students and the 20 and 30 age groups.
Promotion of Stewardship and Consolidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate the Queen of the Apostles and Holy Family sites into one Corpus Christi Church by 2020 January. • Corpus Christi-Carter Lake site will remain as a mission. • Continue the efforts on intentional stewardship approach in the parish.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies for the deeper engagement of parishioners as well as an effective communication plan.
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IV. GOALS FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND ENGAGEMENT

A. Priority: Excellence in Liturgy and Hospitality

1. Review Mass schedule and opportunities for sacraments and prayer to maximize participation and attendance.

- 1.1 Consult with parishioners to introduce the new Mass schedule
- 1.2 Develop a transition plan for implementation.

2. Provide enhanced training for liturgical ministries.

- 2.1 Determine roles and practices for all ministries.
- 2.2 Offer training.
- 2.3 Develop an approach for training new ministers and for ongoing formation/training of existing ministers.

3. Expand music ministry.

- 3.1 Identify and train cantors and new group leaders.
- 3.2 Form adult and youth choirs.

B. Priority: Growth Through Evangelization and Outreach to the Community

- 1. Develop a ministry to invite members of the Hispanic community to join the parish.**
 - 1.1 Form a core team of evangelization-minded and skilled members.
 - 1.2 Determine a strategy for reaching out to members of the community.
 - 1.3 Conduct the evangelization effort door to door.

- 2. Develop a ministry to serve seniors and to invite them to join the parish community.**
 - 2.1 Form a core team of seniors.
 - 2.2 Determine the components of the ministry and a strategy for reaching out to members and potential members.
 - 2.3 Conduct the ministry.

- 3. Organize and expand the parish outreach ministries to people in need.**
 - 3.1 Form/re-invigorate the social concerns committee to report their activity to the pastoral council.
 - 3.2 Continue to update a list of existing ministries and potential new ministries.
 - 3.3 Present a report to the council with recommendations and implement as agreed upon.

C. Increase in Small Groups and Faith Formation Opportunities

1. Form small groups and invite adult parishioners to participate.

- 1.1 Develop a strategy to invite and involve more parishioners in small groups which are conducted in English and Spanish.
- 1.2 Organize and provide materials for the groups to use.
- 1.3 Identify an event(s) for groups to interact and share, such as a parish retreat.

2. Study and make recommendations regarding the faith formation opportunities for all members of the parish.

- 2.1 Study current programs and new possibilities to engage families and create a report with recommendations.
- 2.2 Submit the report to the pastoral council and determine a plan.
- 2.3 Create a timeline and implement the plan.

3. Develop youth ministry and young adult ministries for high school students and the 20 and 30 age groups.

- 3.1 Identify and recruit core teams for bilingual youth ministry and for young adult ministry.
- 3.2 Develop strategies for both ministries and submit plans to the pastoral council.
- 3.3 Create timelines and implement the plans.

D. Promotion of Stewardship and Consolidation

1. Consolidate the Holy Family site and expand the facilities at the primary site.

- 1.1 Meet with groups and individuals from Holy Family to develop a transition plan for the site.
- 1.2 Develop strategies for incorporating religious articles into the primary site, such as the altar, ambo, and stained-glass windows.
- 1.3 Study potential sale- ability for the Holy Family site and make recommendations to the finance council.
- 1.4 Prepare for consolidation of ministry groups and the expansion of the primary site, conduct a capital campaign, and update renovation plan.

2. Study, recommend and conduct a financial stewardship approach in the parish.

- 2.1 Study various approaches to financial stewardship and compile a report with recommendations.
- 2.2 Submit the report to the pastoral council and determine the preferred approach.
- 2.3 Continue stewardship campaign of time, talent and treasure.

3. Develop strategies for the deeper engagement of parishioners as well as an effective communication plan.

- 3.1 Study and make recommendations to the pastoral council on a comprehensive parish communication plan, including the Sunday bulletin, development of the website, use of email and social media.
- 3.2 Implement the communication plan.
- 3.3 Study orientation of new members, the discernment of parishioners' gifts and talents (consider: Strength Finder, ministries booklet, ministry fair), and make recommendations to the pastoral council.
- 3.4 Implement the strategies.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the plan will be monitored by the pastor and pastoral council.

Possible organization and timeline for the implementation will be discussed and recommended by the priority teams.

1. Liturgy Planning Team (Maureen Kruse and Julie Derrig)
2. Evangelization Team (Raymundo Montes)
3. Stewardship Team (Deacon Monty Montagne)
4. Small Group Leadership Team (Deacon Darwin Kruse)
5. Task Force (Andy Heck)
6. Strategic Building Team (Deacon Bob McClellan)

Month	Group	Activity
August ,2019	Liturgy Planning Team	Review and Planning
August, 2019	Task Force	Transition Planning with small groups
August, 2019	Stewardship Team	Parish Stewardship Retreat Planning
August, 2019	Arise Small Group Team	Season 3 Fall Sessions
August, 2019	Evangelization Team	Puerta y Puerta Out Reach to Hispanic Community
December 2019	Strategic Building Committee	Completion of new parish center