



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
Clearwater, Florida
2016 Parish Priority Plan

Dear Parishioners,

As we inaugurate this new year of 2016, we are continuing to seek ways to grow our parish community of St. Catherine of Siena. Certainly, at the forefront of this awakening is our participation in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Francis is challenging us to become more intentional in living out our faith – not only experiencing God’s mercy, but also reflecting the mercy of God to others. This year we are introducing a Parish Priority Plan that focuses on Christ, the Church, and our parish.

We are Christ-Centered—As disciples, our core beliefs are rooted in Jesus Christ and the gospel values.

We are Roman Catholic—As Christians, we are the Body of Christ, the Church. As such, we follow the teachings of the Church and are attentive to the priorities of the times. This past year, Pope Francis released his encyclical *Laudato Si'* and initiated the **Synod on the Family**. As part of the universal Church, the Diocese of St. Petersburg is responding to these initiatives and has challenged parishes and missions throughout the diocese to do the same. Last year, over 6,800 people responded to a diocesan survey for the Synod on the Family which identified many issues that our families are facing in today’s culture. We cannot ignore them.

We are St. Catherine of Siena Parish—As a parish, we have certainly been inspired by the words of St. Catherine of Siena, “If you are what you should be, you will set your whole world on fire.” This is reflected in the 50 ministries and organizations that have logged over 25,000 volunteer hours this past year to our local community. Each year, our parish has consistently experienced growth in both attendance and sacrificial giving. This is certainly good news and we are now observing trends that will assist our parish in forming intentional disciples. Research from Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic Institute reveals that only 7% of registered parishioners throughout the country contribute 80% of the volunteer hours and financial contributions to their parish. Our effort is to awaken the 93% and set our “whole world on fire.”

Whenever we look at surveys, it is important to take into consideration that those who participate are generally more active in the Church, and yet it still reveals the challenges we face today. With this in mind, here are some of the more significant findings from the results of the survey:

- 1) Of the 480 parishioners who participated in the parish survey, only 55 or 12.5% were under the age of 45. This reminds us that we are an aging faith community and we need to seek ways of welcoming and involving the younger generation into our parish.
- 2) Of the 480 respondents, only 26 represented Ethnicity/Race other than Caucasian. We need to continue our efforts in welcoming Catholics of diverse cultures who are residents of our local community as well as the people worshipping in our pews.
- 3) 95% of the respondents identified that they would recommend our parish to others and yet only 22% have invited someone to Mass or a parish event more than once a year. Our parishioners enjoy and recommend our parish, but how can we be challenged to act upon our good intentions?
- 4) 95% of the respondents attend Mass weekly, 23% of the respondents identified that they never go to confession, and 32% participate in a ministry or event more than once a month. In our efforts to form intentional disciples, we are seeking to grow in holiness by increasing our participation in the sacramental life of the Church and our service to the community.
- 5) St. Catherine of Siena Parish matched or exceeded the national and diocesan averages in our disciple index survey that was taken last year.

So the question arises, what are we going to do with this Parish Priority Plan? Our Parish Priority Planning Team has identified Priority Point Persons. They will be working with specific commissions, who will outline and implement specific tasks to attain the **S.M.A.R.T.** goals in our Parish Priority Plan. The Pastoral Council will oversee this process. Of course, this involves the entire parish and your participation is vital. If you are already active in the life of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, invite a friend or neighbor to join you in attending Mass or participate in a parish event. If you are a parishioner who is a seasonal resident or not involved with any of the ministries, please prayerfully consider participating more actively in the ministries of our wonderful parish.

*Sincerely in Christ,
Msgr. Morris*



St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

1955 South Belcher Road, Clearwater, FL 33764

PARISH PRIORITY PLAN



Roman Catholic Church
Diocese of St. Petersburg

St. Catherine of Siena

Vision Statement: We are a Eucharistic community, guided by the Holy Spirit, where all are welcome to our shared journey of faith toward a deeper union with God. We strive to advance God's Kingdom of justice and love through faith-filled **prayer**, compassionate **service** and the generous **sharing** of our God-given gifts.

Values: Prayer, Service, Sharing

Purpose: We are called as Christ's disciples to evangelize, by sharing His love for all God's creation.

OUR 3 PRIORITIES

Forming
Intentional
Disciples

Priority Point Person: Deacon Fred Kunder,
the Faith Formation Commission
and the Stewardship Commission

Caring for Our
Common Home
Laudato Si'

Priority Point Person: Bob Meehan
and the Justice Commission

Connecting Our
Faith to the Family
and the Community

Priority Point Person: Father Jack Marino

SMART GOALS

1. Increase new catechetical leaders by 5-10 by June 30, 2017.
2. Increase the participants in Faith Formation areas by 30-50 by June 30, 2017.
3. Conduct annual survey of all participants by June 30 of each year.
Goal Point Person for all: Faith Formation Commission member

1. Identify 200-500 families participating in an environmental and energy efficient initiative program by June 30, 2016.
Goal Point Person: Bob Meehan
2. Implement an advocacy initiative toward one or two legislative policies by June 30, 2017.
Goal Point Person: Justice Commission member

1. Organize marriage enrichment support groups by December 31, 2016.
Goal Point Person: Jerry & Kathy Mullarkey
2. Respond to one or two challenges a year facing families by June 30, 2016 through June 30, 2019.
Goal Point Person: Elizabeth Chinery
3. Expand our outreach services to 1-2 "at risk" communities by December 31, 2017.
Goal Point Person: Sr. Rosamunda

Over the past year, the Parish Priority Planning Team has been working with our Pastoral Council, Pastoral Team, and the Catholic Leadership Institute. Together we have established measurable goals related to a Disciple Maker Index for the next three years. In preparing the plan, the Team agreed to maintain our Parish Vision Statement which was revised in 2014. The following is the process of what our Parish Leadership has been working on this past year:

January, 2015—Orientation for the Parish Planning Team (includes representatives of our Pastoral Council & Staff)

March 10, 2015—480 parishioners completed a parish survey (represents 18% email response rate)

May—August, 2015—The Parish Planning Team refined our Parish Vision Statement, values and purpose. The Team also established Parish Priorities that resulted from initiatives of Pope Francis, Bishop Lynch, and the parish survey.

October—November, 2015—Clarified our **SMART** Goals:

S—Specific & Measurable, **M**—Motivating, **A**—Attainable, **R**—Relevant, **T**—Trackable (and time bound)

December, 2015—Finalized the Parish Priority Plan and assigned Point Persons and Commissions.

January 24, 2016—Presentation of the Plan to the Parish

February, 2017—Follow-up survey to assess Disciple Maker Index growth in Parish

Forming Intentional Disciples TASKS

“The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it.” (CCC 1816)

Members of the Stewardship and Faith Formation Commissions will discern and implement the tasks to achieve our goal of being formed as intentional disciples. They will focus on our ministries of formation which include: Children’s Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, Adult Faith Formation, RCIA, Bible Study, and Symbolon.

Caring for Our Common Home Laudato Si’ TASKS

In the spirit of Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’*, our parish Justice Ministry will develop an environmental and energy initiative program for our parish and its members.

We will also work with and through partnering organizations such as the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Pinellas County FAST organization to develop and implement a parish-wide advocacy initiative.

Connecting Our Faith to the Family and the Community TASKS

Marriage enrichment support groups will offer married parishioners the opportunity to grow in emotional and spiritual intimacy.

Challenges facing today’s families include addictions, bereavement, the needs of single-parent families, the separated and divorced, the incarcerated, adult singles, and the elderly. These challenges will be an important focus of parish ministry in the next three years.

Gospel outreach to the low-income families of the Coral Heights and High Point neighborhoods, as well as refugees living in our parish.

Our Parish Priority Planning Team at the Bethany Center in Lutz



Pastoral Team

Rev. Msgr. Robert Morris
Rev. Jack Marino, OFM
Rev. Charles Leke
Deacon Fred Kunder
Deacon Rick Wells
Sr. Kathleen Beatty, SSJ
Elizabeth Chinery
Kate Hargrove
Chris Pelletier

Pastoral Council

Karen Bosso
Christina Clemans
Chris Creamer
John Fabiszewski
Tom Goodrich
George Greene
Sonia Helton
Gail Keeney
Elaine Luker
Jerry Mullarkey
Steve Paul
Jamie Pennell