

October 29, 2022

Northern Deanery

GOAL 1 - To reach out and engage all people with the message of the Gospel.

Baptize any child who wants to be baptized – no refusals – they are our future
Provide our own testimonies of what God and the Church has done for us in our lives
See if evangelizers are prepared to help others to understand the Gospel. We should know what we are talking about
Extend invitation to all individuals to attend our Church (Mass) even if we know they are attending another church or no church
Sheets in the pews to explain what is going on during Mass – “cheat sheets” – to make them feel more comfortable and able to follow
Engage youth in social media for their volunteer hours to evangelize others with their own testimonies
Stick to the message of the Gospel and the teachings of the Church in homilies including Q&A after Mass with the priest in the church based on the homily that day
Homilies that make the Gospel relatable and allow for catechesis
Give a bible to every family in the parish
Contact families – knocking on doors, calls
Catechism program – adult and children
Parish picnics
Build Advent Wreaths and teach how to use them
Sports, games, social night – fun!! Personal invitations to be involved
Be more visible in the community – take advantage of ecumenical opportunities
Good music
Adjust liturgy to match the audience – children’s masses; youth masses; shorter masses
Pastor to conduct house visits especially to the home-bound (and or distributing communion)
Saint Party – with priest, parishioners or others of the community
Evangelization through action – not words
Inviting people who are visiting to come to church (even non-Catholics at the cottage)
Going to people in need (woman with a sick husband)
Talking about the Gospel
Talking about the homily – How is “he” going to make the gospel fit in to our daily life? How is it relevant? How does it impact me today? So we can talk as families. You have to help the priest make meaning for the culture of the parish so they can know the culture and make it relevant. Repeat the important parts more than once.
Volunteer to lead rosary in school – promote synergy between church and school
Children’s liturgy during Mass

Social media – promoting positive Catholic media
Parish studies programming
Social events and meals in the parish to invite parish
Promote parish groups – invite
Youth outreach – elderly, food bank, community spirituality, evangelization
Promote worship
Family room
Different parish groups to invite people to
Testimonial
Home visitation
Social gathering after Mass
Seasonal parish renewal twice a year
Youth group get together
School events inviting priest and parish
Soup kitchen // out of the cold at the parish
Some sacramental preparation and celebration back to the classroom
Reestablishment of bringing Eucharist to the homebound
Rosary group to school again
Create volunteer groups at parishes to serve
Twitter/social media
Good example
Being welcoming / kind/ generous / inclusive
Mail out to community before Christmas
Phone calls – personal touch – phone tree
Visiting the sick
Social group – community building
The ones that aren't there
The ones that haven't returned to the sacraments
The ones that are isolated / hibernated
Encourage people to be thankful
Occasional regulars – make things convenient
Visits from the parish priests/deacon to homes
Scripture classes / bible study / children's liturgy
Younger kids youth group evening
Not just priest's responsibility to reach out to people – we as parishioners need to reach out and include our priests in our family and social gatherings
Normalizing spiritual conversations with friends and family helping them to feel comfortable
Engaging people with what the priest is saying – priest moves around the congregation making eye contact while talking
Connecting parishioners with each other
Retreats – women/men/youth

Extra liturgical gatherings

GOAL 2 - To be an inviting and welcoming Church that fosters community.

Coffee Sunday
Saint parties
Clean front door
Witty signs
Staying and talking to people after Mass – new people
Priest being visible at community events (with the collar)
Kids crying
Mass times signs – websites up to date – nice to scroll – nice images
Flyers in parking lot (when people use the church parking lot)
Use social media to invite for events
Christmas and Easter invitations
Flyers in the mail
Ad in the paper
Smile ! (to advertise)
Capitalize on C&E Catholics
Dinners that are open to the whole community
Cheat sheets in the pews to make participants feel welcome and understand what's going on in Mass
Encouraging people to join church groups such as St. Vincent de Paul, K of C, CWL, youth activities, fundraising events
Support community sports teams for youth (if possible, Co-ed)
Introduce ourselves to new faces at church
More advertising of our church Masses and other events and services on social media and bulletin boards, websites and in the mail
More emphasis on welcoming committees or teams before Mass as people arrive
Keeping church open for prayers outside of Mass
After Mass coffee
Parishioners welcoming
Youth groups promoted at schools; bring faith home; church & school & family synergy
Youth leadership
Charitable functions
Parish missions
Indigenous connections
Tenebrae, euchre tournament, pasta dinners, women's retreat, man's retreat; youth retreat, young mom's bible study, cooking classes, Lenten retreat, parish picnic, bake/craft sale in the community, cabaret and musical events, sports events (baseball, soccer, fun fair) field trips or excursions, golf tournament, Christmas dinner, caroling, nursing home visits, making Advent wreaths
Lay people greeting at the doors (trained)

Free dinner once a month for everyone! - or by donation, food bank item
 Coffee and snacks after every Mass
 Avoid actions that exclude – example telling people to see someone after Mass but they don't know who that is – can cause a “clique” feeling
 Establish driving service to bring people to church
 Call people who haven't been back since the pandemic
 “Welcome” committee
 Priests and deacon outside before and after Mass greeting people
 Social Sundays - goodies after Mass
 Home visits
 Matching young families
 Social activities outside of church
 Inviting priests to dinner
 Non liturgical groups – ie bereavement
 Music group animating the congregation prior to Mass (folk praise music)
 Warm greeting at the door upon entry
 Welcome and introductions at the pulpit before Mass
 Extending invitations to all for an event, return again to Mass
 Children's liturgy
 Making children and families feel welcomed
 Presence in the community – food drive, long term care, school (catholic and public) fundraisers, social events
 Communication, networking to reach past parishioners and potential faithful (phone, email, internet/social media)
 Ever Sunday coffee and treats after Mass
 Inviting neighbours to the above
 Sharing tasks through the parish
 Free dinner for the community with other community organizations
 People at home offer to drive them eg people at prison
 Celebrating the priest's birthday in a public way with cake
 Hiking group after Mass
 Movie showing
 Mother's group
 Leadership from priest who engages with the community
 Pastor regularly visits school for student engagement
 Mean of transportation to and from parish events
 More faith filled events held at school inviting families and parishioners
 Youth group – school-based
 Youth group – parish based
 Parish events geared toward families
 Family Masses – allow families opportunities to altar serve, read, Eucharistic ministry
 Reinstate / create Rosary group

Classroom engagement via teachers, guest speakers,, prayer and faith-filled activities

GOAL 3 - To offer well-prepared Liturgies that promote prayer and participation

Training for readers, ushers, altar servers

Find means for conversion of heart that is an experience of God

Overcome secularism by keeping the goal of the eternal front and centre

NOTE – Only one group paper from Goal #3 was handed in.

GOAL 4 - To be a Church engaged in ministry and mission.

Identify social justice issues and groups in our own neighbourhood such as food banks, the St. Vincent de Paul and assist others who need life skills

Ministry is the mission

Outreach programs – parish dinners

Mission – spread the word of God

Ministry – focused on priest – visiting the elderly, administering the sacraments

Parishioners ministering outside the church – homeless shelter (volunteering), bringing communion to homebound parishioners, social justice

Branch out to other groups / churches to support people in need

Needs to be balance between church and other groups

Identify the issues that are important to us in our particular community and ways we can make things better

Freedom to exercise one's gifts in the church – individual initiative should be encouraged

Man made rules of the church should be flexible especially in certain situations

Being aware of other's needs and doing what we can to help them

Encouraging families to support each other in ministry

Prayer lines that include more than CWL members

Create a general parish outreach group beyond the traditional K of C and CWL

Parish "emergency response team" to respond to local or global situations ie hurricane victim relief, a local family recovering from a house fire, relief to victims of war and famine

Programs to bring the elderly together

Develop a simple concrete parish mission statement that underpins the activities of all groups in the parish

Knitting group to knit free mittens and gloves for nay who need them

Provide materials to young parents to begin catechizing their children before school

{ick one month to focus on social justice – educating through homilies and following up with a social justice project

Follow up with parents who have kids baptized and connect them with other families

Provide training (a comprehensive program) – gives background, builds confidence, ties volunteers together ie basic training

Parish missionary work – ie a class on how to have a conversation about the faith

Preparation for apologetics

Parish missions to form people to desire to grow in holiness – saints make an impact

Prayer groups and prayer warriors

Invite priests over for visits

Communication

ProLife work, March for Life

Understanding that the world and the faith are at odds

Promote Catholic virtue

Faith / bible studies (Parish)

Increase evangelization – revival

Study life of saints

Reignite parish mission / ministries / Knights of Columbus / CWL / Youth Ministry / Children's Ministry

Family oriented missions – shrine trips / engagements

Global charities – local organization, monetary collection: Chalice (Adopt a child), Dr. Simone, She Box Christmas, Development and Peace, Caritas

Volunteers, training, fellowship to actively participate within and beyond the parish

Offer/ choose monthly/annually social justice issues within the community, nationally and internationally

Sense of belonging

Renew our own faith and or pull from our faith foundation and go and serve

Serving our schools, community groups and equipping them with a faith toolkit

Helping people to learn how to recognize God in the moment

Form an engagement group to help increase participation and realize and utilize God-given gifts (worship)

Be an informed church to know how best to serve

GOAL 5 - To engage in responsible stewardship of God's gifts for the present and future.

Avoid duplicating ministry in parishes in order to manage resources
Find and support people's gifts (priest visit)
Find small things to do to build confidence
Encourage people care of church property
Promote vocations
Celebrate Saint Feast Days, 40 hours and parish mission.
Make sure use of resources at parish and diocese level is transparent
Make financial reports easy to understand
Clear messaging in bulletins about financial needs
Solicit from the parishioners information about what talents/resources they can offer, rather than asking for volunteers for a specific thing
Offer a variety of short-term activities that people can participate in (ie come help for one afternoon or one evening)
Set a schedule for reviewing progress in goals – ie every six months?
Fund givers – people who willing share \$, time, skill
Volunteer Appreciation
Recruitment Strategy – volunteers, committees
Training and expectations – roles
Broader community involvement – identify upcoming projects
Brand / marketing
Easy process – Bequest or Donation for Current and Future Church
Designated giving for specific projects rather than general needs, using a creative enterprise to pay for the project
Ask parents to encourage youth to participate in activities of the church – social justice
Mobilize volunteers to be disciples
Asking new parishioners to fill out a card with a list of possible talents
Set up booths of different church ministries to explain what the ministry is – in the church hall.
Identify first God's gifts – environment, park, trees, good health
Evangelization – bring your message to other people, how to get people to become an active part of the church
More Christian, more charitable
The church itself – physical upkeep
Recognition of time, talent, money and asking people of the parish to join in committees

GOAL 6 - To be a Church that nurtures reconciliation, healing and mercy.

Be a listening church

Putting our faith in practice

Not being defensive

Take advantage of the sacraments like Reconciliation and other devotions like Divine Mercy

Pray for God to change peoples' hearts

Make restitution to victims where possible

Direct accompaniment one on one to someone who is offended to bridge the gap

Preaching on forgiveness regularly and the need for the sacrament of Reconciliation

Create a day of forgiveness – make it ecumenical!

Bereavement outreach (phone call or visit) that continues beyond the first few weeks after a death

Retreat or teaching opportunity – focus on how to forgive and why, how to respond to the hurt and condemnation our church faces in regards to sexual abuse scandals and residential schools issues – might need to be on a Diocesan level

Ensure Sacrament of Reconciliation is readily available

Specific Day of Forgiveness

Box at the back of the church labeled healing, reconciliation, mercy – write down what you want forgiven or will forgive – fits in with the Season of Lent, church provides the venue

Reconciliation for indigenous groups – initiate conversation

Having Confession before Mass – more available, it can be hard to ask for it

Bereavement ministries – healing ministries; Day of Healing

Care of neighbour (really loving them, not simply philanthropy)

Teaching on how to forgive, seminars, councillors

That we need God's mercy, we are all sinners (That doesn't mean my sins or your sins are ok) (Love the sinner; hate the sin.)

Seeing that we are on the same path

Parish mission (at church) visiting priest focus on mercy and forgiveness

Healing Mass

Reconciliation Mass – Sacrament of Reconciliation – different, new priests multiple

Priests to encourage forgiveness, tolerance

Counselling troubled marriages within the Church (priest)

Divine Mercy devotion – Jesus forgives us, we must forgive.

Increase engagement with the Indigenous community – parish

Christ the King – family adorations and procession

Priest helps set the tone by acknowledging their sinfulness and humanness

Forgiveness is a daily practice

Teach that forgiveness does not mean condoning

Teach that forgiveness helps heal and helps you move forward. Not about them but about you.

Even in the moment of His crucifixion He forgave so we could at least try. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Ongoing marriage support and familial support

Reconciliation begins with acknowledgement & listening