

ST. MONICA PARISH COMMUNITY PASTORAL PLAN 2005-2010

Last Spring, our Parish Council approved a Parish Wide Vision and Goals Statement for the next five years. Since then, each of our six Ministry Councils have developed more specific goals and actions steps to help us achieve the broader parish-wide vision and goals. Here is a list of these supportive goals targeted for 2005 as prepared by each Ministry Council.

If you would like to help us achieve these goals or serve on any of the six ministry councils to continue this exciting work from year to year, please contact the staff person listed next to the heading of each ministry council below. Contact Parish Administrator, Mike Mottola at (310) 319-9753 or mike@stmonica.net if you have any questions or concerns.

5 YEAR PARISH WIDE VISION AND GOALS IN 2010 ST. MONICA PARISH IS:

1. A Community of Compassion and Healing.

From the moment of our first welcome, we will care for one another, reach out to those who are hurting, and help all to belong. Through spiritual guidance and healing, we will transform our spirits and open our hearts to God's Word. Through spiritual formation and Catholic education, we will grow in our faith in God and commit to being faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

2. A Center of Dynamic Lay Leadership.

We will encourage all members to recognize their gifts and invite them to share these gifts in service to the parish community. We will provide leadership formation and support in a collaborating environment with each other and the ordained. We will empower the laity to participate in the governance of the parish. We will become a model and source of leadership for the larger Church.

3. A Catalyst for Social Justice.

We will weave into the fabric of parish life the social teachings and mission of the Church. We will provide our members with opportunities to care for those in need and to bring about greater justice and peace in the world. We will provide material assistance to the poor and form partnerships with local, archdiocesan, and global groups to serve those in need. We will encourage and support individual and parish wide efforts for social change.

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ADMINISTRATION 

MINISTRY COUNCIL SUPPORTIVE GOALS

(CONTACT MIKE MOTTOLA — (310) 319-9753 / mike@stmonica.net)

1. Begin to develop a master site plan for the next 15 years.

We will look at the big questions related to parish and school facilities and our future. What will be required to maintain our buildings during this time? Are we currently making the best use of our facilities? What are the short and long range improvements we would like to make to accommodate the changes in our membership and growth of our ministries? What will be the cost of these improvements and how will we pay for them?

2. Monitor implementation of communications plan.

A long range plan for communication to parishioners and the surrounding community was developed by

staff and volunteers and approved by our parish council in 2004. We will periodically review the progress of this plan and provide support to the staff and volunteers responsible for carrying it out.

3. Expand stewardship of finances.

We will continue to educate parishioners about stewardship. Stewardship is recognizing God's blessings in our lives and our response in gratitude through the sharing of our gifts in the form of time, talent, and treasure. We will look for ways to encourage parishioners to make an annual pledge of financial giving. We will communicate regularly to parishioners what it costs to operate the parish and what their contributions support.

4. Evaluate current leadership formation and develop comprehensive plan.

We will evaluate how we currently engage parishioners in leadership positions in the parish, how we train, guide, support, and evaluate these leaders, and how other churches and organizations develop lay leaders. We will also identify and reflect on current realities affecting lay leadership development and come up with effective ways to develop lay leaders in our parish at all levels.

5. Support other ministry councils.

The administration ministry council includes supportive activities for all ministries such as stewardship, facilities management, and communication. We want to meet with each of the five other ministry councils annually to discuss issues and concerns that will lead to even better support for all ministries and to discuss their role in these important areas of parish life.

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ADULT EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT

MINISTRY COUNCIL SUPPORTIVE GOALS

(CONTACT SR. CATHERINE RYAN — (310) 458-5940 / srcatherine@stmonica.net)

1. Evaluate our evangelization strategies and develop a comprehensive plan for action.

Evangelization is the word the Church uses to include all those ways we proclaim the Gospel – the good news, the message of Jesus Christ. We will look for ways to effectively welcome those in our surrounding community who are not members of a Christian church but are searching for truth and love in their lives. We will explore new ways to welcome back and listen to Catholics who have been away from the Church for whatever reason. We will find ways to encourage all St. Monica parishioners to really listen to the Gospel and dedicate their lives to Christ in ever-growing ways.

2. Develop a long-range plan for growth in volunteer leadership and participation in evangelization and adult education.

We will look for ways to invite, train, and support more volunteers in our adult education programs and evangelization efforts.

3. Develop the social justice component in our adult faith development strategies.

Recognizing that the Gospel is about love of our neighbor, we will assist parishioners find a connection between the Gospel and Church teachings and the actions in their lives that can foster peace and justice in the world around them.

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COMMUNITY LIFE

MINISTRY COUNCIL SUPPORTIVE GOALS

(CONTACT DAN SHANAHAN — (310) 451-1374 / danshanahan@stmonica.net)

1. Foster parish wide community building events.

Our parish is large and it is often difficult to get to know other parishioners. We will expand the number, quality, and affordability of social events that help parishioners meet one another and begin to experience community and belonging at St. Monica.

2. Develop a long-range plan for welcoming and integrating new members into the parish.

The primary way individuals become members of our parish is by attending Mass and completing a registration card at our welcome table after Mass. We will further develop our welcome of newcomers and find ways of helping new members navigate the waters of St. Monica. We will communicate the benefits as well as the responsibilities of membership and to listen to the questions, concerns, and expectations of new parishioners.

3. Develop a plan to expand our stewardship of ministry.

Stewardship is recognizing God's blessings in our lives and our response in gratitude through the sharing of our gifts in the form of time, talent, and treasure. We will look for ways to continue to encourage parishioners to offer their time and talent to the parish community and beyond, in ways that accommodates their busy lives.

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PASTORAL CARE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

MINISTRY COUNCIL SUPPORTIVE GOALS

(CONTACT DELIS ALEJANDRO — (310) 458-6042 / delis@stmonica.net)

1. Develop a plan to increase the range of pastoral care the church provides to people of all ages and circumstances in the both the parish and the broader community.

St. Monica is a large and diverse parish community and our members and families will inevitably experience serious difficulties related to health, family life, finances, and crises of various kinds over the course of time.. We will look for ways to provide better care and support to these parishioners, especially the fragile, sick, and elderly . We will also improve our assistance and referrals to the homeless and needy who come to the parish requesting assistance.

2. Finalize a plan to promote participation throughout the parish and schools in pastoral care and social justice activities.

We have many programs and activities that can offer parishioners a way to live their faith in the world through Christian service, both locally and in the third world. We will look for ways to encourage all parishioners to give some of their time in any of these activities.

3. Develop a process for widening the decision making regarding our parish giving.

We try to "tithe" as a parish, giving 10% our income to needy individuals and non-profit organizations. We will involve more parishioners in our decision making about how to distribute these funds.

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WORSHIP AND LITURGY

MINISTRY COUNCIL SUPPORTIVE GOALS

(CONTACT KYLE TURNER — (310) 319-9761 / kyle@stmonica.net)

1. Evaluate our welcoming before, during, and after Sunday liturgy and develop short and long range plan for improvement.

Realizing that most person's first and often only contact with St. Monica is Sunday Mass, we will review our welcome and hospitality to worshippers, from the time they enter our parking lots to the time they drive away. We will give special attention to first time visitors. In addition, we will assist all St. Monica members in offering their own personal welcome of others.

2. Develop a long-range plan that incorporates the laity's gifts and insights in homilies and reflections.

People who attend liturgy are looking for a message that is meaningful and relevant to their lives. We will look for ways to draw upon the experience and insights of both ordained and lay persons in sermons and

reflections during Sunday Mass.

3. Develop a plan to connect parishioners' worship life with social action/justice.

Recognizing that the Gospel is about love of neighbor, we will assist parishioners in finding a connection between their worship and the actions in their lives that can foster peace and justice in the world around them.

4. Evaluate our music ministry and develop a long-range plan for fuller participation and greater effectiveness.

Music lifts the assembly's spirit and offers another way to pray and experience God. We will look for ways to enhance our liturgical music. We will find new ways to encourage all worshippers to participate in the music at Mass.

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YOUTH EDUCATION AND FORMATION

MINISTRY COUNCIL SUPPORTIVE GOALS

(CONTACT MARIE SLATON — (310) 395-8903 / marieslaton@stmonica.net)

1. Develop a plan to increase the participation of youth in our youth ministry program.

We have over 500 teens attending our high school and many Catholic teens attending Santa Monica High School (enrollment 3,000) and other private high schools around us. We will find ways to expand our outreach and "in-reach" to all these youth and provide them with activities and experiences that will help them grow in faith. We will also communicate and plan with families of St. Monica regarding future involvement of their children in our youth programs.

2. Develop a plan for greater interaction between the parish and schools regarding the formation of teenagers, preteens and their families.

We will look for new ways to strengthen the connection between our parish and school families, staff, and volunteers, especially regarding the faith development of our youth.

3. Increase the effectiveness and understanding of the Youth Education and Formation Ministry Council parish wide.

Our Ministry Council is looking to the future and thinking creatively about our programs for children and teens. It is looking for ways to effectively support our schools, religious education, and youth ministry programs. It will build understanding among parishioners and school constituencies about its visioning and supportive role as one of our six ministry councils.

4. Evaluate the social justice component in our Religious Education, Youth Ministry and School programs and develop a plan for growth.

Recognizing that the Gospel is about love of our neighbor, we will help our youth find a connection between their faith and the actions in their lives that can foster peace and justice in the world around them.

OUR MISSION

TO FORM LOVING DISCIPLES WHO WILL TRANSFORM THE WORLD